International Friendly

AUSTRALIA 0 - 1 ARGENTINA

Goalscorer Martin Demichelis.

Tuesday 11th September 2007
Melbourne Cricket Ground
Referee: Mike Dean (England)
Assistant Referees: Ben Wilson & Nathan Gibson
Fourth Official: Simon Pryzadcz

Crowd: 70,171
Qantas Socceroos: 1.Mark SCHWARZER (gk), 2.Lucas NEILL, 4.David CARNEY, 5.Jason CULINA, 6.Michael BEAUCHAMP, 7.Luke WILKSHIRE, 8.Josip SKOKO (17. Carl VALERI 51 '), 9.Joshua KENNEDY (22.Nik MRDJA 82'), 11.Archie THOMPSON (19.Nick CARLE 62'), 13.Vincenzo GRELLA, 23.Marco BRESCIANO (10.Brett HOLMAN 58').

Yellow Cards: Brett Holman 60 ', Vince Grella 87 '

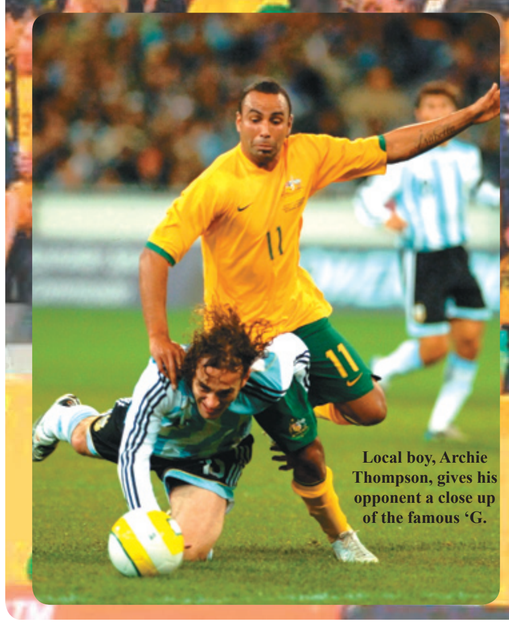
Argentina: 13.Roberto ABBONDANZIERI (gk) 2 .Martin DEMICHELIS, 6.Gabriel HEINZE, 8.Javier ZANETTI, 11.Carlos TEVEZ (84'), 14.Javier MASCHERANO, 15.Gabriel MILITO, 17.Nicolas BURDISSO, 18.Jonas GUTIERREZ (5.Fernando GAGO 72'), 19.Lionel MESSI (91'), 20.Federico INSUA (16.Cristian LEDESMA 80') .

Scorer: Martin Demichelis 49 '

Yellow Cards: Gabriel Heinze 53'.

Australia's Josh Kennedy wins the heading dual against Gabriel Heinze.

Lionel Messi cracks one from a distance and hits the post.



Local boy, Archie Thompson, gives his opponent a close up of the famous 'G.

Photos by Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis and Peter Kakalias.

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Boo, Katsa & Tsigan

FOXTEL CUP FINALS

www.goalweekly.com

$3

GOAL! WEEKLY

Season 3: Issue 21 Monday 17th September 2007

Supporting all colours and reporting in black and white

NO SNIFF OF VICTORY YET!

Photo: Therese Duffy

PLUS▶ ALL THE LATEST ACTION FROM THE FOXTEL CUP, STATE & PROVI LEAGUES, WPL, JUNIORS & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

OAKLEIGH 1517 Dandenong Road 9569 7099
RICHMOND 509 Bridge Road 9429 7717
ESSENDON Homemaker Hub DFO 9351 0669
NUNAWADING 343 Whitehorse Road 9878 8555
EPPING 3/560 High Street 9408 4911
FOUNTAIN GATE Fountain Gate Super Centre 8786 5770
THOMASTOWN Homemaker Centre 9465 9611
TAYLORS LAKES Watergardens 9449 0233
MARIBYRNONG Highpoint Homemaker Centre 9317 7037

adriatic.com.au

ADRIATIC FURNITURE

EXCLUSIVE, YES. EXPENSIVE? NO.

THE NIGHT BATIGOL CAME TO TOWN

Every generation has its handful of superstars that leave an indelible mark in the minds of all football followers. For Gabriel Batistuta his time was the 90s.

Throughout the 90s his name was synonymous with goal scoring. His presence injected confidence into his team-mates and tranquilized the minds of his coaches. The tall blond Argentine towered over defenders and when it was all over he amassed 355 goals in 631 professional games for club and country. A star in all in respects, Batigol, as he was aptly renamed by fans, displayed artistry on the field and humility off it, which is why he is still endeared by those who observed his career last Century.

On Tuesday he watched his beloved Argentina test themselves against Australia in an exhibition match before the World Cup qualifiers get on the way next month. Since he was in town he hanged around for a day and made a stop at Copacabana courtesy of Heidelberg Utd. This is where many got to see the man in person make his first public appearance since he started calling Australia home.

First there was food and then there was comedy which was followed by the unmissable Fabio Robles who showed everybody what Tango is all about and finally when the people couldn't wait any longer Gabriel Batistuta took the stage and addressed the masses. "Thank you all for being here it is very nice to see so many people from Argentina, Brazil and Greece together having a good time," uttered Batigol in his raw, unpolished accent. Needless to say the attention of the crowd was incredible, their eyes fixated on the man who scored a hat-trick against Greece in the opening match of the 2004 World Cup in the US. "That was great, I scored three goals but then Diego scored too and everybody was talking about that!" Of course it was hard to stand out when you play alongside one of the game's greatest. Always the gentleman, Bati continually checked if everybody could understand him but the crowd was willing to help and everybody got the message of how he felt about representing his country. "I cannot name one game that was most important except that for me every time I wear the national colours, I always felt honoured," explained Bati when the MC queried his national team playing days.

As if to share many of the qualities of a true South American football star, Bati had his fair share of challenges along the way and there was a time when like many of us he was unknown and poor. Originally from Reconquista, a small farm town in the rural province of Santa Fe, Bati was more likely to have become a farmer but as fate dictated that was not to be. "I enjoyed basket (basketball), tennis, rugby and I play every sport except for football", said Bati of his early days. It wasn't until he saw Diego Maradona set a new precedent in world football at the '86 World Cup in Mexico that he finally took to the game. At 19 he tried out for first division side Newell's Old Boys where his talent was recognized by Marcelo Bielsa, the current Chilean national coach. After making an impression in his debut season Bati was transferred to River Plate but his career hit a snag when another famous coach, Daniel Passarella took charge and chose to sideline him for an entire season. With his chances of being recognized in tatters his agent brokered a deal with Boca Juniors and under coach Oscar Tabarez he was given the opportunity to show the world what he could do. His goals earned Boca the title in 1991 and a third place finish in the Copa Libertadores. It also earned him a spot in the national team, which won the Copa America that year.

Bati was now a national star and was ready to try his luck in the old world playing for Florence's Fiorentina. It was there that most of us remember Batigol, wearing the purple and white top, which he displayed for ten years. This is where Bati demonstrated his greatest attribute, one which earned him the undying love of the Fiorentina faithful. Loyalty.

By far the biggest name in the team, Bati stuck with the club despite million dollar offers and even stayed when the club was relegated. With the guidance of Claudio Ranieri, Bati led the team to the second division title and brought the club back into Serie A. So much was the city's admiration now that they had a statute built for him that stood for all to see what the striker meant for Florence. Although Bati scored 207 goals and won a couple of cup titles, it was the Scudetto that evaded him. The desire to celebrate the Serie A is what led him Roma. At Roma his arrival impacted the club like a bomb and after 18 years the league title was back in Rome. After completing his dream Bati enjoyed a short stint at Inter and finished off his career playing in the obscurity of Saudi Arabia.

On the International stage Batistuta never got to lift the World Cup trophy and after three attempts he announced his retirement. It ended with heartbreak after the much fancied Argentina squad bowed out in the first round of the Japan/Korea World Cup, which signaled the end of era. "I've had a beautiful 10 years or so playing for Argentina," he told a reporter for the Associated Press (June 12, 2002, on-line). "But this is my saddest moment. I had dreamed of ending my career in a different fashion. I had visions of retiring after lifting the cup in the final. But it didn't work out that way, and that's football."

Back on the stage of Melbourne's finest Latin venue Batistuta rates the potential of the current Argentina squad very highly but he is careful not to over glorify the young Lionel Messi. "You cannot compare him to Diego; there will never be a player like him. Messi should just play like Messi and he will become a great player himself."

And that was it, the autographs continued the photos clicked on and drinks kept coming.

Oh yeah what is Batistuta doing in Perth and is it true that he might somehow be involved with the game in this country? Will he join Perth Glory in some kind of consultant role or will he become the face of the game Frank Lowy has been searching for? Well according to Batistuta, no. "I came here to get away from everything, after 15 years of putting pressures on my family and me I would just like to relax and enjoy. At the moment I don't have any plans."

And so the story continues...

Club/Country	Games	Goals
Newell's 1988/1989	28	8
River Plate 1989/1990	24	4
Boca Juniors 1990/1991	47	19
Fiorentina 1991/2000	332	207
Roma 2000/2002	86	33
Inter Milan 2002/2003	12	2
Al Arabi 2003/2005	23	26
Argentina 1991/2002	78	56
Total	**631**	**355**

By Carlos Ibarra

Photo by Carlos Ibarra

BATISTUTA CAREER TIMELINE

1969: Born on February 1 in Reconquista, Argentina
1988-89: Makes debut for Argentine side Newell's Old Boys. Scores four goals in title-winning season before moving to River Plate.
1989: Leaves River and crosses Buenos Aires to city rivals Boca Juniors.
1991: Signs for Fiorentina for $2.3 million.
1992-93: Despite his 16 goals in 32 games, Fiorentina are relegated. Batistuta turns down offers to move to other Serie A sides.
1993-94: Scores 16 goals in 26 matches to take Fiorentina back into the top flight at first attempt.
June 1994: Hits hat-trick in his World Cup debut against Greece.
1994-95: On target in each of his side's opening 11 matches of the season to set a new Italian goal record. Ends campaign as Serie A's top scorer with 26 goals from 32 games.
April 1996: Grabs his 34th goal for Argentina in a 3-1 victory over Bolivia, equalling Diego Maradona's record.
May 1996: Scores in both legs of Italian Cup final as Fiorentina beat Atalanta Bergamo 3-0 on aggregate to claim their first major trophy in 21 years. It was the only title Batistuta won in his nine years in Florence.
April 1997: Hits superb equaliser in UEFA Cup semi-final in Barcelona. Photos of "Batigol" holding his finger to his lips to silence a 100,000-strong Nou Camp crowd become part of Italian football folklore.
November 1997: Recalled by Argentina after being dropped for 10 months.
June 1998: Grabs hat-trick at World Cup in 5-0 drubbing of Jamaica. Becomes father for third time the day before Argentina's quarter-final win over England in which he scores his side's opening goal.
1998-99: Scores 13 goals in first 13 matches of season to help Fiorentina to the top of Serie A. When he is sidelined with a knee injury in February their title push falters and they finish third.
January 2000: Third behind Rivaldo and David Beckham in 1999 FIFA World Player of the Year award. Scores 152nd league goal for Fiorentina, breaking club record set by Swede Kurt Hamrin in 1950s.
May 2000: Scores hat-trick on final day of season to break Hamrin's Serie A record. Bursts into tears after scoring his third goal in his last match for the Florentines. His final tally for Fiorentina is 168 goals in 269 league appearances. Signs for AS Roma for $33.8 million.
2000-2001 - Notches 20 goals in 28 matches to win the Serie A title.
2001-2002 - Injury and lack of form contribute to a disappointing second season at the Olympic stadium in which Batistuta manages only six goals. His last World Cup ends in sadness as Argentina are knocked out in the first phase. Batistuta confirms his international retirement.
2002-2003 - Frequently finds himself left on the bench by Roma before moving to Inter Milan.
2003 - Joins Al Arabi in Qatar.
2004 - Scores 25 goals in his first full year.
2005 - Ends contract with Al Arabi after injury problems and announces retirement.

Facts are courtesy of gabrielbatistuta.net

GLORY 1 - 2 ROAR

Courtesy Glory FC

ROAR SNATCHES POINTS WITH LATE STRIKE

Queensland opens account for season

Matt Mckay has scored a goal in the 84th minute to inspire his team to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Perth Glory in an entertaining Hyundai A-League clash at Members Equity Stadium on Sunday.

The Glory went ahead in the 15th minute through defender-cum-striker Jamie Harnwell, who earned his first start of the season at the expense of youngster Nikita Rukavytsya, but the lead was short-lived with Roar defender Josh McCloughan tapping in the equaliser seven minutes later.

The game appeared headed for a draw before some slack Glory defence and a lucky rebound allowed McKay to bang home the winner to give his team its first win of the season.

Perth skipper Simon Colosimo almost stole a point for the home side in injury time but his 20-yard strike cannoned into the post.

The Glory welcomed back a host of players from national duties, with Colosimo joining midfielder Billy Celeski and defender Nikolai Topor-Stanley to bolster the starting XI.

But it was the Roar who made the barnstorming start as Perth's defence was put under all sorts of pressure in an action-packed first half.

Glory keeper Tommi Tomich got down well to keep out Danny Tiatto's 18-yard strike in the third minute, and the custodian was forced to pull off another fine save three minutes later when Ante Milicic snuck in behind Perth's defence and fired off a strike with only the keeper to beat.

But it was Perth who took the lead against the run of play when Anthony Danze found Harnwell inside the box with a beautiful chip.

Harnwell chested the ball forward and then slotted the ball past Roar keeper Liam Reddy with a lunging right boot as two defenders moved in to close him down.

A fantastic fingertip-save from Reddy kept out Celeski's long-range attempt in the 18th minute and the visitors soon had the game back on level pegging when McCloughan knocked home the easiest of goals in the 21st minute.

With a mass of numbers in the box, Perth's defence failed to deal with an initial cross and Naum Sekulovski's weak clearance off the line fell straight into the lap of McLoughan, who merely had to tap the ball forward from point-blank range to score.

Queensland controlled proceedings after the half-time break and were unlucky not to go ahead in the 51st minute when Tiatto's 22-yard thunderbolt thumped into Tomich's left post.

Danze and Jimmy Downey both spurned good chances on goal for the Glory, while at the other end Reinaldo challenged Tomich with a powerful strike from a tough angle.

With both sides pressing hard for the winner and pushing numbers forward, it was the Roar who capitalised on a tired Glory defence with just six minutes of normal time remaining.

Two Glory defenders failed to clear a loose ball in the box, with McKay pouncing to drill home the winner.

Glory's Sekulovski raises the boot as Reinaldo approaches in the distance.

Get your Soccer Team together and enter the...
Australian Corporate Games
now in its 15th year is set for Melbourne from November 23-25 2007
Join 10,000 athetes across 20 Sports
For information contact 1300 301 418 or www.corporategames.net.au
Official Soccer Sponsors
OKI
Wilson
Australian Corporate Games
Soccer Men Open
Soccer 5's 30+ Men
Soccer 6's Women

A-LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Central Coast Mariners	4	3	1	0	5	0	5	10
2. Newcastle Jets	4	2	2	0	3	1	2	8
3. Queensland Roar	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
4. Melbourne Victory	4	0	4	0	3	3	0	4
5. Wellington Phoenix	4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	4
6. Adelaide United	4	0	3	1	5	6	-1	3
7. Perth Glory	4	0	3	1	1	2	-1	3
8. Sydney FC	4	0	2	2	3	5	-2	2

NEXT ROUND

Jets v Victory
Friday 21st Sep KO 8pm

Roar v Sydney FC
Saturday 22nd Sep KO 7pm

Phoenix v Adelaide Utd
Saturday 22nd Sep KO 5pm

Mariners v Glory
Sunday 23rd Sep KO 5pm

ROUND 4 DETAILS

Sydney FC 1 (Adam Casey 6')
Wellington Phoenix 2 (Felipe 9', Daniel 29'(penalty))
Friday, 14 September 2007
Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney
Referee: Matthew Breeze
Assistant Referees: Alex Glasgow & Murray Wilson
Fourth Official: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 11,491

Melbourne Victory 0
Central Coast Mariners 0
Sunday, 16 September 2007
Telstra Dome, Melbourne
Referee: Mark Shield
Assistant Referees: Hakan Anaz & Jim Oularis
Fourth Official: Kevin Docherty
Crowd: 27,351

Newcastle Jets 1 (Mark Bridge 81')
Adelaide United 0
Saturday, 15 September 2007
EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle
Referee: Angelo Nardi
Assistant Referees: Nathan Gibson & Rodney Allen
Fourth Official: James Lewis
Crowd: 13,267

Perth Glory 1 (Jamie Harnwell 14')
Queensland Roar 2 (Josh McLoughan 21', Matt McKay 85')
Sunday, 16 September 2007
Members Equity Stadium, Perth
Referee: Ben Williams
Assistant Referees: Michael Nugus & Joe Fusari
Fourth Official: Steven Gregory
Crowd: 7,203

GOAL! WEEKLY

This week's line-up

Victory v Mariners	3
Foxtel Cup Details Page	4
Lions v Knights	5
Magic v Cannons	6
Cavaliers v Zebras	7
WPL Finals Wrap	8
Boo and Katsa	9
Tsigan	10
The Champs	11-15
Interstate	16
Juniors	17-19
Tartan Talk	20
Succeroo	21
A-League	22-23

Goal! Weekly Football Newspaer

Publisher:
Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142
Port Melbourne, VIC, 3207
Phone: 9645-1440

Printer:
Streamline Press
155 Johstone St
Fitzroy, VIC, 3065

Distributor:
All Day Distribution Pty Ltd
PO Box 42
North Carlton, VIC, 3054

News Room: (03) 9645-1440
Advertising: (03) 9645-1440

news@goalweekly.com
mailbag@goalweekly.com
www.goalweekly.com

Editor: Costa Koutropoulos
Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
Production: Gagandeep Singh, MJ Ali.

Contributors:
Mark Boric, Richard Bartolo, Simon Chiarelli, George Egonidis, Steven Gray, Nick Townsend, Paul Jefferies, George Katsamboukas, Daryl Kennedy, Eddie Krncevic, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Chris Priftis, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Richard Sucksmith, Adrian Ceddia, Bruno Zovko, Jason Gillick, Chris Vernuccio, Markian Jaworsky, Michael Lilikakis, Nat Adamopoulos, Craig MacKenzie, Bruce Darnell, Elias Simopoulos, Joe Novella.

Photographers:
Daniel Flis, Darryl Kennedy, John Punshon, Steve Starek. Therese Duffy, George Stogiannou.

Goal! Weekly endeavours to be as accurate as possible with everything it publishes.

The Fair Trading Act 1999 requires Goal! Weekly to disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of information which is supplied to it and which is published in other than editorial content.

Goal! Weekly is available from all good newsagents every Monday

To find your nearest agent check our distribution list at www.goalweekly.com

MELBOURNE VICTORY **0 - 0** CENTRAL COAST

STILL NO SIGN OF VICTORY

Melbourne extends winless streak to nine games

By Simon Chiarelli at the Telstra Dome

Melbourne Victory has extended its winless streak against A-League opposition to nine after being held to a 0-0 draw by the league leading Central Coast Mariners.

In front of a crowd of 27,351, the reigning champions were lucky to escape with a draw after Adam Kwasnik twice struck the crossbar while Tom Pondeljak was denied by a finger tip save from Michael Theoklitos.

Although in a chaotic last three minutes, Melbourne scorned a stunning chance to secure the win after Tony Vidmar was sent off for taking down Archie Thompson when the Socceroo was on route to goal.

However, the match was marred by an injury to Danny Allsopp, who was rushed to hospital with suspected broken ribs after two heavy collisions.

The game commenced in frenetic style as Melbourne immediately established its dominance in the middle of the park.

Adrian Caceres was presented with a chance inside the first two minutes, bursting through the defensive lines, however, he was thwarted by a last-ditch tackle from Vidmar.

Reigning Golden Boot Allsopp was in fine form early, latching onto a magnificent through ball from Thompson, before angling in on goal only to be denied by the boot of goalkeeper Danny Vukovic.

The duo combined again in the 10th minute, as Allsopp played a cross into Thompson, who directed his attempt just over the crossbar.

However, despite the Victory's early dominance, it was the Mariners who conjured the game's first genuine scoring opportunity, only for Sasho Petrovski to be ruled offside after finding space inside the penalty area.

With Nik Mrdja already absent from the starting line-up, the Mariners were made decidedly short of striking power early in the opening half when Petrovski went down injured with an apparent calf-strain.

But the setback did not deter the Mariners, and in the 27th minute, Kwasnik almost snatched the game's first goal in spectacular fashion.

Controlling the ball on the edge of the area, the league's top scorer proceeded to chip over Roddy Vargas before unleashing a spectacular first time volley that rattled the crossbar.

Spurred on by the scare, Melbourne countered and pressed forward in search of the opener, creating wave after wave of chances as Thompson and Allsopp came within inches of taking the lead.

The best opportunity though, fell for captain Kevin Muscat, who flashed a header just wide of the back post after a corner from Matthew Kemp.

Melbourne continued its onslaught early in the second half, dominating possession as they attempted, seemingly in vain, to penetrate the Mariners defence.

But as the home side floundered, Central Coast came agonisingly close to taking the lead on the break as Jedinak fired a low drive on goal, forcing Michael Theoklitos to make a stellar diving save.

Moments later, Vukovic was forced to make a save at the other end of the park, denying Allsopp after the bullocking striker made an incisive run through the Marniers defence.

The end-to-end trend continued soon after, with Kwasnik curling a free kick into the woodwork from 20-yards out.

Carlos Hernandez continued his struggle to adapt to the tempo and physicality of the Australian game, lacking the pace or stamina to trouble his opponents before he was substituted on the hour mark by Leandro Love.

Reprising his role as an impact player of the bench, Leandro's injection was seemingly the tonic needed to revive the Victory line-up, with his speed and enthusiasm causing a number of problems.

But on 70 minutes, it was in fact Allsopp who squandered the best opportunity of the game, volleying just wide of the rear post after a Thompson cross.

As the final whistle approached, Melbourne committed numbers forward in an attempt to secure a winner, leaving the defence vulnerable on the counter.

And this was almost exposed by Pondeljak, whose vicious low strike was parried wide by Theoklitos.

Leandro had a chance to win the game in the last few minutes of the game, finding himself in metres of space inside the penalty box, but he scuffed his attempt, ensuring Melbourne emerge with a solitary point, their fourth of the season.

Livewire Archie Thompson causes havoc in the Marnier's penalty area during the entertaining clash between the champions and the current league leaders.

PLAYER RATINGS

1.Michael THEOKLITOS – 8 – Made a number of important saves
2.Kevin MUSCAT – 5 – Struggled to assert his authority on the game
3.Daniel PIORKOWSKI – 7 – Solid in defence
7.Matthew KEMP – 7 – Tried endlessly but lacked the final pass
8.Grant BREBNER – 7 – Strong performance from midfield general
9.Danny ALLSOPP – 7 – Typically tireless performance
10.Archie THOMPSON – 7 – Energetic display, but lacked delivery from midfield
12.Rodrigo VARGAS – 8 – Best performance of season
14.Adrian CACERES – 5 – Substituted early in tactical switch
16.Carlos HERNANDEZ – 5 – Another uninspiring performance
18.Leigh BROXHAM – 6 – Ineffective early, but came to prominence when pushed forward

15.Leandro LOVE – 7 – Introduction changed the tide of match
6.Steve PANTELIDIS – 6 – Failed to make an impact
21. Sebastian Ryall – 5 – Omitted from starting eleven despite promising debut

GOAL! WEEKLY

For all other A-league details please turn to page 18-19

FOXTEL CUP FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Preston Lions	26	14	9	3	44	26	48
Melbourne Knights	26	14	5	7	38	21	47
Whittlesea Zebras	26	14	5	7	35	28	47
Altona Magic	26	13	7	6	34	24	46
Oakleigh Cannons	26	13	5	8	47	33	44
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	11	7	8	37	28	40
South Melbourne	26	10	7	9	39	33	37
Heidelberg Utd	26	10	7	9	32	37	37
Western Suburbs	26	8	11	7	27	25	35
Richmond	26	10	4	12	44	32	34
Fawkner Blues	26	9	6	11	26	28	33
A.I.S	26	10	2	14	33	35	32
Essendon Royals (R)	26	8	7	11	30	35	31
Sunshine Georgies(R)	26	7	8	11	23	38	29
Kingston City (R)	26	7	6	13	32	38	27
Springvale White Eagles (R)	26	1	2	23	17	77	5

TOP SIX SERIES

ELIMINATION FINAL 2
Altona Magic 0
Oakleigh Cannon 1

ELIMINATION FINAL 1
Whittlesea Zebras 2
Green Gully Cavaliers 1

QUALIFYING FINAL
Preston Lions 1
Melbourne Knights 0

Week 2
21-23 september

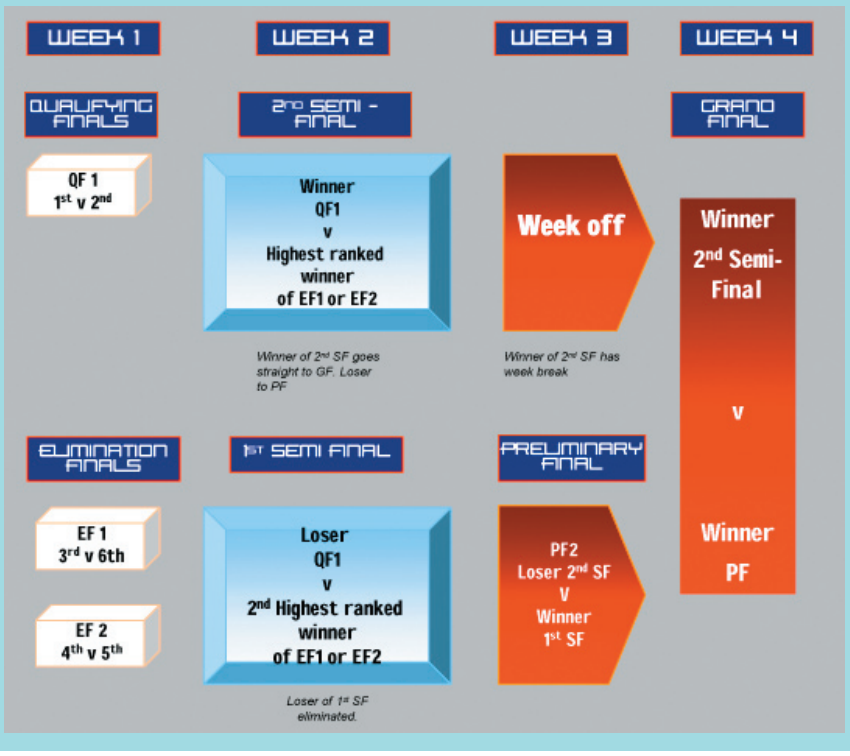
Week 3
30th September

Grand Final
7 October

THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player, Club	Goals
Masi, Esala Oakleigh Cannons FC	15
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	12
Nilo, Juan Oakleigh Cannons FC	12
Pelikan, Anthony Melbourne Knights	11
Georgioski, Blaze Preston Lions SC	10
Diaco, Ricky South Melbourne FC	10
Vulic, Antun Kingston City FC	10
Lagana, Frankie M Essendon Royals SC	10
Tsiorlas, Mark Fawkner Blues SC	8
Becvinovski, Saso Altona Magic SC	7
Sapazovski, Johnny Preston Lions SC	7
Fa'arodo, Henry Richmond Eagles	7

FINALS FORMAT



TOP SIX SERIES

Major Semi-Final

Preston Lions v Whittlesea Zebras
Saturday 22nd Sept
KO 3PM

Minor Semi-Final

Oakleigh Cannons v Melbourne Knights
Sunday 23rd Sept
KO 3PM

Please check www.footballfedvic.com.au for confirmation of all VPL Top Six Fixture Details

PRESTON LIONS

1 - 0

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

LIONS HOME IN A THRILLER!

Sterjovski's winner sends the Lions into the Second Semi Final

By Simon McCuskey
Photos by Steve Starek

The Preston Lions registered their first finals win in five years, with a goal to Tony Sterjovski in the eighty fifth minute sealing a 1-0 victory over a gallant Melbourne Knights and booking their place in a Second Semi Final showdown against Whittlesea Zebras.

The First Qualifying Final between two of Victoria's biggest and established football clubs lived up to all expectations, where a crowd of over 3,000 at Epping Stadium witnessed an epic contest, with either side having multiple chances to seal a finals victory from start to finish.

The Knights seized the first chance of the game in the third minute, when Preston goalkeeper Savas Ozdemir could not handle a hot ball struck from promising youngster Daniel Visevic. The ball landed to Craig Elvin on the penalty spot but fired wide in front of an open goal.

On the half hour mark, the Knights had goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj to thank for keeping a clean sheet. Lions striker Zoran Petrevski fired in a half volley from 25 yards out, only for Cagalj to dive at full stretch and force the ball out for a corner. Minutes later, Johnny Sapasovski won a free header courtesy of a Marino Gasparis cross, but was denied by Cagalj tipping the ball over the bar.

The momentum in this match swung frequently and the Knights began to find the upper hand towards the half time break. Daniel Visevic broke free along right midfield and continued to advance into the Lions box. Visevic's shot from twelve wads was blocked by Ozdemir, but continued to roll towards the goal line. Lions centre back Serdar Pir swept the ball clear and retained Preston's clean sheet before the interval.

The Lions should have snatched the lead in the final piece of play for the first half. Tony Sterjovski's corner found an unmarked Zoran Petrevski six yards out, but Petrevski sent his header wide of the near post. Both teams squandered opportunities to take the lead and using an old cliché, it was anyone's contest at half time - such was the evenness of this contest.

Preston was fortunate not to concede a goal immediately after the restart. Lions captain Pece Siveski delivered a back pass intended for Ozdemir, but a lack of power on the pass allowed Joe Spiteri to intercept the play, only to find side netting with his subsequent shot.

The see-sawing affair in this First Qualifying Final continued, as Cagalj denied Preston scoring from long range on two occasions with two superb saves. The first saw Gasparis latch onto a volley from thirty yards out which appeared goal bound until Cagalj got a hand to the ball at the last moment. Cagalj repeated the performance shortly after, this time denying left midfielder Tony Sterjovski scoring from a similar distance.

In the eightieth minute, Knights captain Tom Milardovic delivered a high ball that found Joe Spiteri deep in the Lion's box. The veteran striker, surrounded by three Lions, laid the ball off to youngster Visevic to finish, but his low strike on goal was saved by Ozdemir.

Preston's break finally came in the eighty fifth minute. Jonathon Munoz found Gasparis wide in space along the right wing and his resulting cross was finished on a crowded goal line by Tony Sterjovski tapping the ball into the back of the net.

With time ticking down for the Knights, the last roll of the dice for an equaliser came deep in injury time, but to no avail as Visevic sprayed his shot wide from fifteen yards.

Preston held onto win 1-0 and registered their first finals victory since their 2002 championship winning season. The win earns the Lions the right to directly qualify for the Foxtel Cup Grand Final against Whittlesea Zebras this weekend. Although deflated after such a gallant performance, all is not lost for the Knights and now have the opportunity to rebound against Oakleigh Cannons to keep their championship dreams alive.

Very little separates these two clubs on their day and should they square off again in the Foxtel Cup Finals series, rest assured it will be another game either going down to the wire, via normal or extra time, or the penalty spot.

Knights Watson rises high over the shoulder of Preston's Igor Arsovski, as referee Perry Muir keeps an eye on the action in the background.

The big crowd watches Melbourne Knights Tom Milardovic (white) hold the defensive line against Preston's John Sapazovski. Adrian Cagalj looks on.

***Preston Lions:** S.Ozdemir, J.Munoz, L.Anastasiou, S.Pir, M.Gasparis, J.Sapazovski (N.Lazarevski 60'), T.Sterjovski, M.Miskas (S.Masalkovski 93'), Z.Petrevski, I.Arsovski (B.Georgioski 60'), P.Siveski.*

***Scorers:** Tony Sterjovski (Preston 85')*

***Cautions:** Nick Lazarevski (Preston), Jonathon Munoz (Preston)*

***Melbourne Knights:** A.Cagalj, S.Iosifidis, T.Milardovic, M.Grbesa, J.Spiteri, D.Visevic, C.Watson, C.Elvin, M.Dugandzic (S.Piorkowski 70'), I.Franjic, A.Pelikan.*

Man of the Match
Marino Gasparis
(Preston Lions)

Action shots - Team photos - Subscriptions
Media facilities for publications and clubs
www.dvfimages.com.au
DVF Images
All Foxtel Cup photos now available on our brand new website

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

1 - 0

ALTONA MAGIC

CANNONS BREAK MAGIC'S FINAL SPELL

Kovacic keeps the dream alive

By George Stogiannou
Photos by Daniel Flis

Oakleigh Cannons rolled on to their next battle in the Premier League Finals following a 1-0 elimination final victory against last season's beaten grand finalist Alton Magic at Epping Stadium on Friday night.

In a game showcasing three of the league's top strikers, Esala Masi, Michael Curcija and Juan Nilo, it fell to young Cannons' defender Antun Kovacic to score the only goal of the match.

Magic went into the game with an injury cloud over midfielder Pece Cergovski. The relatively inexperienced keeper John Cvetkovski replaced Bojo Jevdevic in Altona's goal.

Both sides began with a 4-4-2 shape and appeared to relish the excellent Epping playing surface. Magic was the first team to settle playing some fluent football in the middle of the park with Fidel Richards providing plenty of movement. His teammate in the middle, Sash Becvinovki had a couple of half chances in the opening 15 minutes.

In defense the Magic kept a compact shape resisting any urge to press the Cannons high up the park. The Cannons for their part were finding it difficult to play their way through the Magic unit. As a result Oakleigh created very little for their strikers.

However their defense also looked comfortable particularly against any Magic aerial attacks .

The game tilted in the Cannons' favor just after the half hour mark when Magic coach Vlado Tortevski replaced injured midfielder Cergovski with defender Slave Bozinovski. The Cannons soon won a corner. With tall Cannons' defender Felix Rosman obscuring keeper Cvetkovski's view, Bill Damianos's corner cross found the head of Oakleigh's Kovacic on the edge of the six yard box to give the Cannons the lead somewhat against the run of play.

Magic almost equalized from their own set piece on the stroke of half times when striker Curcija deflected a Doug Mladenovic free kick inches wide of the post.

As expected, the Magic opened up after the break, pushing Fidel Richards higher up the park on the right side of midfield. As a result the Cannons enjoyed more space, creating the greater amount of clear chances in the second half. Damianos and Masi had chances in quick succession.

Michael Panopoulos drew the ire of the Magic fans when he played on whilst his direct opponent Richards lay injured on the turf. Panopoulos's shot grazed the post as the jeers rained down on him.

The loss of Richards was a further blow to the Magic's midfield as they struggled to create openings in an Oakleigh defense led ably by Rosman.

Meanwhile, the Cannons sensing their stretched opponent was vulnerable, looked threatening on the break. In a last roll of the dice, Magic coach Tortevski replaced defender Steven Mrkela with another midfielder pushing Sas Becvinovski into a three man attack. But it was Oakleigh who went closest to scoring in the last 10 minutes when Bill Damianos and Adam Ewin saw Magic keeper Cvetkovski save their close range shots.

Cannons' Coach Start Munro said after the game, " They're probably more experienced than us in finals football. But I thought once it settled down it was fairly even. We got the goal obviously which made a big difference to the second half.. I think on another day we might have scored another two or three goals in the second half because we had enough possession and opportunity. We'll keep our fingers cross that Green Gully wins this weekend because that means we'll play off for a place in the final."

A philosophical Altona coach Vlado Tortevski commented after the game, " First half we played the game we wanted to play. Like everyone else with the state of these grounds, long season, we had lots of injured players especially the last four or five weeks. What happened today was just one of those things. We had to change everything after 20-35 minutes. That was costly. We had a good first half. The second half we tried hard but in the end Oakleigh was the better team on the day. Congratulations to Oakleigh. I hope they can go all the was." Tortevski believed it was ultimately costly not to have all his players available. "We had a young keeper. I think he played well today. Look if you can't score then obviously you can't win the game."

Player of the Match
Felix Rosman
(Cannons)

Oakleigh: M.Turnbull, M. Stergiopoulos, F.Rosman, S.MacNicol, M. Panopoulos (A.Ewin 85'), J. Nilo (P. Cardozo 89'), E. Masi (Varesa 72'), B. Damianos, A. Kovacic, S.Poutakidis, Scott Webster.

Scorer: A. Kovacic 39'

Altona: J. Cvetkovski, S. Mrkela (P. Tortevski 75'), L. Osman, d. Mladenovic, K. Delev, S. Becvinovski, A. Sherifovski, P. Cergovski (S. Bozinovski 33'), F. Richards (I. Kolevski 54') M. Curcija, S. Aleksovski

Cannons players celebrate with match winner Antun Kovecic.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

1- 2

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

ZEBRAS REPEAT THE DOSE OVER GULLY

Cavaliers knocked out after extra time

By Markian Jaworsky
Photos by Therese Duffy

Green Gully have exited the 2007 Foxtel Cup at the hands of the Whittlesea Zebras after 120 minutes of football in the 2nd Elimination Final.

Green Gully were on fire in the first half, boosted with the return of midfielders Jeffrey Fleming and Andy Vargas, after they were rested in the previous match, the Cavaliers were playing clean, crisp, one touch football on route to the Whittlesea goal. Andy Vargas latched onto a low cross in the Zebras penalty area to give Gully a 1-0 lead after just fifteen minutes. The rest of the half, saw Gully either shoot just wide of the Whittlesea goal, or force the Zebras goalkeeper Kenny Gerochristodolou into goalline saves. The Zebras missing John Angelovski in defense had their backs to the wall.

At the halftime, Zebras coach Peter Ollerton would have served up a rocket for his troops, whilst Gully would have been feeling as though the job was almost done. The recipe for a momentum shift. The Zebras started the second half with sense of urgency. Hamlet Armenian equalised for the Zebras within ten minutes after halftime and the game was in the balance. With just fifteen minutes to play of normal time, Andy Vargas again latched onto a low cross in the Zebras penalty area, but this time his shot dropped wide of the goal. Gully couldn't buy a goal.

The match went into extra time, the Cavaliers had used up their substitutions, Peter Ollerton had an ace up his sleeve, three minutes before halftime of extra time, striker Eric Vassiliadis was introduced into the game. Two minutes before halftime of extratime, Erci Vassiliadis struck the crossbar of the Gully goal from a setpiece and the Zebras Steve Martin was the first to react, volleying the loose ball into the Gully goal. Gully had a few chances to score in the remaining half of extratime, but 2007 wasn't to be for the Cavaliers who spent many weeks on top of the Foxtel Cup earlier in the season.

Coach Ian Dobson will have a couple of months rest before rebuilding his squad for the 2008 season. Whittlesea on the other hand will take on Preston next week for a chance to play in this year's Grand Final.

Whittlesea:
Kenny Gerochristodolou, Kristian Rees, Ross Antoniadis, Ari Drakos, Mark Pistininzi, Josip Kozic, Greg Lombardo, James Sherman, Steve Martin, Tex Apostolakis, Hamlet Armenian
Subs:
Dario Dinapoli, Stelios Drakos, Simon Lamanda, Luca Santilli, Eric Vassiliadis.

Green Gully:
Thomas Kovar, Ryan Ollerton, Dragi Nastevski, Daniel Cain, Dean Fak, Mile Medjedevic, Andy Vargas, Jeffrey Fleming, Joel Nikolic, Brandon Vassallo, Manny Muscat
Subs:
Ante Loncaric, Campbell Banks, Kristijan Ivesic, Marcelo Pena, Phillip Riccobene.

Final Score:
Whittlesea Zebras 2 (H.Amernian, S.Martin)
Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (A.Vargas)

Crowd: 500

Man of the match: Manny Muscat

Hamlet Armenian has equalised with minutes to go in the Elimination Final against Green Gully.

INTER KEEPS TITLE DEFENSE INTACT

BOX HILL INTER 2
ASHBURTON 1
(After Extra Time)

Box Hill Inter advanced to a semi-final showdown with minor premier Heidelberg United next weekend after a 2-1 extra time victory over Ashburton at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

Genia Avram's neat finish 5 minutes into the first added period sealed the win for Inter, who had come from behind to square the game at 1-1 in normal time after Annabelle Gibney had given Ashburton a first-half lead.

In blustery conditions, Ashburton had the aid of the breeze in the opening stanza and used it to good effect, carving out the bulk of the early chances.

Only a fine block by Box Hill goalkeeper Helen Klerides denied Seyma Erenli an early goal after the Ashburton striker had been played in beautifully by Stacy Louras.

The impressive Tal Karp then crafted another opening for fellow midfielder Rosie Mortellaro, but Klerides was once again up to the task of fending away Mortellaro's tame strike.

Ashburton was consistently first to the ball throughout the first half, and deserved its lead on 35 minutes when Gibney latched onto a headed flick-on which cleared the Box Hill defence to lob the advancing Klerides.

Erenli could have added a second soon after when picked out at the back post by Karp's cross-field free kick but she lashed her first-time shot wide.

Box Hill came out a different side after the interval, finally calling Ashburton 'keeper Antoinette Michail into action on 50 minutes to stop a goalbound Anthea Vardakas' strike.

With the wind now in its favour, Inter began to press for an equaliser, going close when Amanda Lawless' in-swinging corner deceived Michail to hit the crossbar.

On the break, Ashburton could have doubled its lead when Gibney raced clear on goal from the halfway line. But with only the goalkeeper to beat, she screwed her shot wide.

And moments later, Box Hill needed a desperate goal-line clearance from Chiara Romano to deny Gibney after the competition's leading scorer had beaten the diving Klerides for what looked a certain goal.

Ashburton came to rue those two chances less than 10 minutes from time when Inter finally found reward for its increased second-half tempo and sustained forward pressure.

Vardakas was the architect, picking out the touchline run of Avram, who delivered for Kat Smith to ram home from close range.

In a frenetic final few minutes, Smith had two chances to give Box Hill the win in normal time, lifting a long-range effort over the woodwork and failing to hit the target with a free back-post header after Jess Humble had swung in the cross.

But in the first period of added time Inter scored what was to be the winning goal when Avram collected Vardakas' long ball close to the centre line, outpaced the Ashburton defence and slotted coolly past the diving Michail.

By George Egonidis

Photos by Therese Duffy

Action from Box Hill Inter's win over Ashburton in Extra Time.

MATILDAS EYE QUARTER FINAL BERTH

Australia have secured a dramatic 1-1 draw against former world champions and world number four Norway to move closer to a quarter final berth at the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China.

Half time substitute Lisa De Vanna scored one of the goals of the tournament to equalize with seven minutes remaining, following on from her two goal haul when she again came off the bench in the Matildas 4-1 win over Ghana on Wednesday. The goal elevated the Perth-based striker to second on the goalscorers tally behind only Brazil's Marta who has four goals.

The match was played in front of a boisterous crowd of 33,835 at the Dragon Stadium in Hangzhou.

Norway scored in just the fifth minute with Ragnhild Gulbrandsen firing past Australian goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri from close range. Melbournian Barbieri was making her 50th appearance for Australia and in the process became the Matildas most capped goalkeeper.

Norway, the top seeded nation in the group, won the FIFA Women's World Cup in 1995 as well as the gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Australia now require a point out of their last group match against Canada in Chengdu on Wednesday to secure a first ever quarter final berth in the fourth tournament appearance for the Matildas.

Australian midfielder Heather Garriock was named by FIFA as player of the match.

Match Details:-
Australia 1 (Lisa De Vanna 83')
Norway 1 (Ragnhild Gulbrandsen 5')

Australian line-up: Melissa Barbieri (gk); Lauren Colthorpe (Caitlin Munoz 76'), Thea Slatyer, Cheryl Salisbury (c), Dianne Alagich; Danielle Small (Lisa De Vanna h/t), Collette McCallum, Alicia Ferguson, Heather Garriock; Joanne Burgess, Kate Gill (Sarah Walsh 61')

Cautions: nil
Referee: Huijun Niu (China)
Attendance: 33,835

SCHOOL
HOLIDAY CLINIC
FOOTBALL STAR ACADEMY
SPECIAL GUEST COACH:
The Legendary SAM MEYER with over 40 years experience coaching at all levels internationally.
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
TOTAL OF 2 WEEKS
Where: Brighton secondary College 120 Marriage Road, Brighton East
When: Week 1 or Week 2
Cost: 3 days $150 or 6 days $250
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
WEEK 1
Monday 24th September
Tuesday 25th September
Wednesday 26th September
WEEK 2
Monday 1st October
Tuesday 2nd October
Wednesday 3rd October

SPORT + T images

THERESE DUFFY
mobile: 0418 185 875
email: tduffy@sport-t-images.com
web: www.sport-t-images.com
PO BOX 18355, Collins St East, Melbourne Vic 8003

PROVI LEAGUE NORTH WEST 2

CHAMPIONS

WHITTLESEA UNITED FC

Back Row: Mehmet Demirhan (GK), Sinan Mirik, Mostafa Hilmi, Berkay Sayer , Hakan Mirik, Marc Mifsud, Serdar Torun, Hasan Oruc.
Front Row: Nuri Ceker, Romando Hanalu, Hakan Ertan , Taner Altanhan, Khaled El-Buhisi, Lawrence Spiteri, Adem Devlioglu, Halil Kocaturk(Coach)

2007 started badly for Whittlesea Utd. Due to water restrictions our ground, Thomas Reserve, was deemed unacceptable to play on.

We were given no ground to do pre-season training so we improvised using places here and there, including the Optus Oval, indoor Soccer and the Tan Track. I knew for a fact that we had the nucleus of a very good team and so we persevered. Our younger players Sinan Mirik, Mostafa Hilmi and Berkay Sayer, not yet 18, joined the experience of Hakan Mirik, Marc Mifsud, Serdar Torun, Hasan Oruc, Nuri Ceker, Romando Hanalu, Hakan Ertan and a rejuvenated Taner Altanhan to make it such a compelling team. Add to this the new addition of Khaled El-Buhisi, gun defender Lawrence Spiteri and fast winger Adem Devlioglu and we felt ready for a challenging year.

With no home ground, every home game had to wait for a Whittlesea Council Monday night allocation. All up, eleven home games played out on six different grounds. Despite the uncertainty, we won our first five games and by mid-season we had ten wins and one draw to our name. Still no home ground and no permanent training facility we did not let ourselves get complacent. We opened up a 10 point lead, and eventually lost some points coming into the last round. It came down to a draw or a win will to give us the Championship banner and fortunately we triumphed. We thank our rivals for some exciting games and the FFC for supporting us in our road to Champions 2007-Mens Provisional Div 2 North-West. We would like to acknowledge, for their efforts during this year, Sinan Mirik as the leading goalscorer (23) and Taner Altanhan with 21 goals to their names. Also, our keeper, Mehmet Demirhan did an outstanding job keeping the balls out.

We all aim to play with fairness and community spirit and this championship is a reward for that effort. Our team, supporters and sponsors are to be congratulated on this successful outcome and we all look forward to working together and playing Soccer in 2008.

Seniors Final Standings

Whittlesea Utd 3 (S Mirik, T Altanham 2) Keon Park 1 (K Samuel) (HT: 1-1), North City Lions 2 (T Dalikouras, K Ayache) Melbourne Tornado 1 (L Stolica) (HT: 1-1), Northern Falcons 4 (D Pannunzio, J Pizzo 2, M Monaci) Brimbank 2 (P Solano, FP Comas) (HT: 4-1), Brimbank City 4 (V Osmanovic 2, R Jakobsen, M Sejranovic) Moreland Utd 3 (H Haroon, Y Saumi, DJ Perri) (HT: 3-2), Bell Park 0 Collingwood City 2 (A Galanos 2) (HT: 0-0), Uni. of Melbourne 3 (L Taylor 2, AR Brown) Mill Park 1 (M Splatt) (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whittlesea Utd	22	16	3	3	62	24	51
Melbourne Tornado	22	16	2	4	57	28	46
Keon Park	22	15	4	3	50	20	45
Collingwood City	22	11	5	6	36	23	38
Moreland Utd	22	10	5	7	47	45	35
Brimbank City	22	9	6	7	47	36	33
Northern Falcons	22	8	4	10	37	39	28
North City Lions	22	7	6	9	39	40	27
Bell Park	22	6	6	10	28	35	24
Uni. of Melbourne	22	6	3	13	31	39	21
Brimbank	22	4	1	17	22	69	13

The Honours

Champions: Whittlesea United
Runner Up: Melbourne Tornado
Relegated: Uni. of Melb, Brimbank

Top Scorers

Sinan Mirik Whittlesea United 23
Taner Altanham Whittlesea United 21
Con Tsandefskis Keon Park 19

Reserves Final Standings

Whittlesea Utd 0 Keon Park 0 , North City Lions 5 Melbourne Tornado 1 , Northern Falcons 1 Brimbank 0 , Brimbank City 0 Moreland Utd 1 , Bell Park 0 Collingwood City 2 , Uni. of Melbourne 1 Mill Park 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northern Falcons	22	15	1	6	38	26	46
Collingwood City	22	13	5	4	40	15	44
Keon Park	22	13	5	4	30	18	44
North City Lions	22	9	8	5	37	20	35
Bell Park	22	8	7	7	28	27	31
Brimbank City	21	8	6	7	33	27	30
Brimbank	22	7	6	9	25	27	27
Whittlesea Utd	22	7	6	9	28	38	27
Moreland Utd	22	5	9	8	23	32	24
Melbourne Tornado	21	4	7	10	30	40	19
Uni. of Melbourne	22	3	7	12	19	32	16

PROVI LEAGUE SOUTH EAST 2

CHAMPIONS

SCOTCH OLD BOYS FC

Seniors Final Standings

Mitcham Utd 1 (L Marrone) Ashburton 3 (C Prountzos, C Boyle 2) (HT: 1-1), Mornington 0 Keysborough 0 (HT: 0-0), Caulfield Cobras 1 (A Constandara) Dandenong Sparrows 1 (M Terzic) (HT: 0-0), Seaford Utd 1 (SJ Dillon) Old Trinity Grammarians 1 (P Louden) (HT: 1-1), Scotch Old Boys 0 Carrum Utd 0 (HT: 0-0), Noble Park 1 (M Mihajlovic) Beaumaris 1 (JG Novella) (HT: 1-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Scotch Old Boys	22	15	5	2	37	11	50
Ashburton	22	14	5	3	47	17	47
Keysborough	22	11	6	5	40	27	39
Caulfield Cobras	22	9	7	6	31	26	34
Dandenong Sparrows	22	8	8	6	31	26	32
Mornington	22	9	4	9	36	31	31
Carrum Utd	22	7	5	10	24	38	26
Mitcham Utd	22	6	6	10	35	42	24
Old Trinity Grammarians	22	6	5	11	30	37	23
Beaumaris	22	6	5	11	24	32	23
Seaford Utd	22	4	9	9	26	31	21
Noble Park	22	4	1	17	32	75	13

The Honours

Champions: Scotch Old Boys
Runner Up: Ashburton
Relegated: Seaford United, Noble Park

Top Scorers

James Clemson Ashburton 16
Anthony Truong Scotch Old Boys 13
Onur Tufan Caulfield United 10

Reserves Final Standings

Mitcham Utd 0 Ashburton 2 , Mornington 1 Keysborough 0 , Caulfield Cobras 2 Dandenong Sparrows 0 , Seaford Utd 0 Old Trinity Grammarians 0 , Scotch Old Boys 1 Carrum Utd 0 , Noble Park 0 Beaumaris 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Scotch Old Boys	22	17	4	1	37	6	55
Caulfield Cobras	21	13	5	3	43	22	44
Mornington	22	14	1	7	46	25	43
Ashburton	21	10	3	8	42	28	33
Old Trinity Grammarians	22	8	9	5	25	19	33
Beaumaris	22	7	10	5	29	23	31
Keysborough	20	8	6	6	21	14	30
Mitcham Utd	22	5	7	10	21	36	22
Dandenong Sparrows	22	5	5	12	26	38	20
Seaford Utd	22	4	6	12	32	41	18
Carrum Utd	22	3	8	11	27	48	17
Noble Park	22	2	4	16	12	61	10

Back Row L-R: Tim Ward, Adam Greaves, Andrew White, Doug Baillie, Brad Whitaker, Daniel Giesen-White, Jimmy Jewitt, Chris Jewitt, Jarrod Lawless, Eamonn Beamish (Coach)
Front Row L-R: Anthony Truong, Tom Bennett, Nicholas Bond, Stuart Robinson (Captain), David Fielding, Todd Mitchell, Steve Whately, Andrew Alford.

ResultsVault football
Visit http://football.resultsvault.com for football results and statistics

STATE LEAGUE NORTH WEST 2

CHAMPIONS

KEILOR PARK FC

Back Row (L-R): Willie Vassallo (Coach), Dale Barbuto, Mathias Gorosito, Grant Mussel, Peter Spiteri, Peter Tawaf, Paul Galea, Matthew Nikolic, Biran Maher, Simon Skazlic (President)
Front Row (L-R): Nathan Miloshis, Steven Mussel, Derek Galea, Daniel Moore, Marcos Oliveira, Matthew Worrall, Aaron Galea Absent: Atef El Dib, Mohamed Mohamed, Vincent Zafferano

The start of this year's season was difficult for all Clubs. Water restrictions and the opportunity to get a decent pre-season under the belt was extremely frustrating for all.

The delay to the official start was no help also. Last year we finished up second in N/W 2 division and went to the playoffs were we lost (2:1) in injury time. It was important to retain the nucleolus of that team and add some depth to an already good side for 2007. The Club attracted previous Club players in Grant Mussel, Paul Galea and later in the season Marcos Oliveira. The coaching team in Willie Vassallo and Louie Trajcevski were reappointed again for 2007.

It was important to get off to a good start and indeed since round 3, Keilor Park Soccer Club placed itself on top of North West 2 Division State League ladder and remained there till the last round clinching the Championship. At one stage leading by two or more games clear from second. With only two losses for the year (on both occasions playing with 10 men) the players certainly trained and played together with great camaraderie throughout the season.

Consistency, depth and the ability to compete both home and away was the key this year.

Winning a Championship in its inaugural 50th Anniversary year was also the icing on a already special year for Keilor Park Soccer Club.

Seniors Final Standings

Thomastown Devils 5 (R Panetta 3, A Longo 2) Maribyrnong Greens 1 (A Redzepovic) (HT: 1-0), Altona East Phoenix 6 (M Tolli 2, J Lazaridis, J Siljanoski 2, G Iedom) Pascoe Vale 2 (D Turkovic, P Ferrante) (HT: 3-1), Lalor Utd 2 (N Milevski, A Rolevski) Sunbury Utd 4 (V Kalayci, A Muscat, M Gray, S Markovski, HF Wootton) (HT: 1-2), Keilor Park 0 Werribee City 1 (T Batur) (HT: 0-0), Altona City 1 (Y Hailemelekot) Williamstown 3 (J Groba, V Babic, Z Markovski) (HT: 1-3), Moreland City 0 Yarraville Glory 1 (R Dinse) (HT: 0-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	22	12	8	2	38	13	44
Werribee City	22	11	9	2	33	14	42
Pascoe Vale	22	10	7	5	31	17	37
Thomastown Devils	22	10	3	9	34	31	33
Williamstown	22	10	2	10	27	33	32
Altona East Phoenix	22	8	7	7	41	21	31
Maribyrnong Greens	22	9	3	10	38	43	30
Altona City	22	8	5	9	35	36	29
Sunbury Utd	22	7	7	8	31	35	28
Moreland City	22	6	8	8	23	25	26
Yarraville Glory	22	6	5	11	25	39	23

The Honours

Champions: Keilor Park
Runner Up: Werribee City
Relegated: Moreland City, Yarraville

Top Scorers

Saso Markovski Maribyrnong Greens 14
Daniel Genovesi Pascoe Vale 13
Marco Tolli Altona East Phoenix 11

Reserves Standings

Thomastown Devils 6 Maribyrnong Greens 1 , Altona East Phoenix 3 Pascoe Vale 1 , Lalor Utd 0 Sunbury Utd 6 , Keilor Park 6 Werribee City 1 , Altona City 1 Williamstown 1 , Moreland City 4 Yarraville Glory 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Thomastown Devils	21	17	3	1	42	12	54
Keilor Park	22	15	4	3	43	20	49
Altona City	22	13	6	3	31	14	45
Moreland City	22	11	5	6	35	17	38
Pascoe Vale	22	9	4	9	28	26	31
Werribee City	21	9	2	10	32	41	29
Altona East Phoenix	22	8	3	11	23	29	27
Sunbury Utd	20	7	5	8	24	21	26
Maribyrnong Greens	20	7	4	9	28	32	25
Williamstown	22	4	4	14	15	30	16

STATE LEAGUE SOUTH EAST 2

CHAMPIONS

FC CLIFTON HILL

Seniors Final Standings

Waverley Wanderers 1 (A Gungordu) Heatherton Utd 1 (R Heco) (HT: 1-0), FC Clifton Hill 4 (Z Romanovski 2, P Katris, L Plunkett) Templestowe Eagles 0 (HT: 2-0), Northcote City 2 (D Archimandritis, B Lloyd) Stonnington City 3 (O Mejias, S O'Brien, D Nash) (HT: 2-1), Doncaster Rovers 1 (R Nasser) Knox City 1 (AJ Saunders) (HT: 1-1), Diamond Valley Utd 0 South Springvale 0 (HT: 0-0), North Caulfield Chelsea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC Clifton Hill	22	14	4	4	48	27	46
Diamond Valley Utd	22	12	7	3	35	16	43
South Springvale	22	11	8	3	42	24	41
Doncaster Rovers	22	12	4	6	33	16	40
Knox City	22	8	8	6	25	22	32
Waverley Wanderers	22	7	9	6	30	29	30
Chelsea	21	7	6	8	28	23	27
Northcote City	22	6	9	7	22	27	27
Stonnington City	22	4	8	10	25	39	19
Heatherton Utd	22	3	9	10	20	37	17
North Caulfield	21	1	10	10	22	36	13
Templestowe Eagles	22	3	4	15	24	58	13

The Honours

Champions: FC Clifton Hill
Runner Up: Diamond Valley
Relegated: Noth Caulfield, Templestowe

Top Scorers

Ilias Diniotis South Springvale 14
Ayhan Gungordu Waverley Wanderers 12
Zoran Romanovski Clifton Hill United 12

Reserves Final Standings

Waverley Wanderers 1 Heatherton Utd 0 , FC Clifton Hill 1 Templestowe Eagles 0 , Northcote City 2 Stonnington City 2 , Doncaster Rovers 4 Knox City 0 , Diamond Valley Utd 3 South Springvale 2 , North Caulfield Chelsea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox City	22	14	3	5	34	16	45
Doncaster Rovers	22	13	5	4	53	28	44
Chelsea	21	12	5	4	40	18	41
FC Clifton Hill	22	11	4	7	31	19	37
Northcote City	22	10	7	5	37	31	37
Diamond Valley Utd	22	11	3	8	40	22	36
Waverley Wanderers	22	10	2	10	29	36	32
North Caulfield	21	7	5	9	21	31	26
South Springvale	22	7	4	11	23	32	25
Stonnington City	21	5	5	11	28	48	20
Heatherton Utd	22	3	3	16	11	36	12

Back Row: Michael Malakonas (Assistant Coach), Ari Vlahos, Luke Grounds, Peter Katras, Andrew Watkins, Sam Tyrikos, Chris Govas, Ben Harbinson, Lance Plunkett, Nick Kyriopoulos, Jason (Physio)
Front Row: Tony Toutzaris, George Kotsiris, George Kakaletsis (Player/Coach) Roberto Enes, Zoran Romanovski, Milan Sajkic

After a slow start, FCCH went on a 6 game unbeaten run to close the gap on Diamond Valley which was first place at the time.

The next three games saw us losing points to teams at the bottom of the table like Templestowe Eagles, Stonnington and Chelsea. Our season turned around in Round 14 against Knox where we won away from home 2-1 whilst playing for 1 hour with 10 men. From round fourteen through to round twenty two we picked up 25 out of 27 points which ensured our championship. The boys, especially towards the end of the season played with great passion and pride for our club and the strength of our summer signing and our squad in general was the readon why we made up the 8 point lead that Diamond Valley had on us.

The key to our success this year was our goal scoring ability from not only our forward players but our mid field players. Our top goal scorer Zoran Romanovski (13 goals) was ably assisted by George Kotsiris (9 goals), Ben Harbinson (7 goals), George Kakaletsis (5 goals), Nick Kyriopoulos (4 goals) and Lance Plunkett (4 goals).

Big thanks must go to the committee who worked tirelessly to ensure that the coaching staff and players were completely supported so that they could focus on winning games. The dynamics of the team were another key factor in our strength. The good nature of all the boys and club culture was something that was envied by other teams in our league.

None of this would have been possible without our sponsors - Preston Structural Steel, Trademark Cafe, Kri Kri Restaurant, Kinisi Live, Zebra Panels and i-Comm.

STATE LEAGUE NORTH WEST 3
CHAMPIONS

BALLARAT RED DEVILS FC

Back row: Andrew Simpson (Asst Coach), Wayne De Jong, Tristan Romein, Luke Armstrong, Josh Romein (Capt), Paul McClounan, Sandro Digirolamo, John Davey, Ryan Rykers, Danny Gnjidic (Coach).
Third Row: Ady Curtain, Sam Muscat, Kristos Karameros (Team Manager).
Second Row: Seb Digirolamo, Shaun Romein, Aaron Romein, Ashley Lymn, Luke Wigmore, Rick Janssen.
Front: Dominic Swinton

The Haymes Ballarat Red Devils have clinched their 3rd Championship in their 39 year history with a 4 - 2 over Geelong on Saturday.

3 goals to skipper Josh Romein and one to league golden boot Ashley Lymn were enough for the Reds to win the Championship by three points, to go with Championships won in 1968 and 1992.

Coach Danny Gnjidic was full of praise for his young charges after the win. "This is just rewards for the boys as they have all done everything that was asked of them the whole season. I am so proud of them individually and as a team. The club has been one of the most professional outfits that I have been with, and to see over 1000 people at our last game was just brilliant."

The Red Devils have averaged well over 500 people per game during 2007, and now with even more exposure through the local paper (the Courier), WIN TV and 3 radio stations in town the Reds are on the move.

"The way the whole club went about the season was first class both on and off the park", President Andrew Burgess said this week. "We are building a big club here, and with this team and the coaching staff that we have this is only the beginning of things to come".

The Ballarat team went into the season with an average age of just 21 years, but played like seasoned pros as they often came up against much more experienced teams. "We knew this was going to be the case very early on so we worked extra hard in the pre-season and got our just reward on the final day of the season. It was just a great day and I am really looking forward to next year", Gnjidic went on to say.

Seniors Final Standings

Westvale 1 (DJ Sfetcopoulos) Banyule City 0 (HT: 0-0), Avondale Heights 2 (P Rubera 2) Corio 1 (S Arthey) (HT: 2-0), Ballarat Red Devils 4 (J Romein 3, AB Lymn) Geelong 3 (G Carr, O Yilmaz, R Clayson) (HT: 2-2), Plenty Valley Lions Lalor , Geelong Rangers 0 Sydenham Park 1 (S Stojanovski) (HT: 0-1), La Trobe University 0 Cairnlea 1 (MF Peris) (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ballarat Red Devils	22	14	2	6	48	29	44
Cairnlea	22	11	8	3	47	23	41
Lalor	21	10	8	3	35	25	38
Banyule City	22	10	5	7	31	27	35
La Trobe University	22	10	4	8	41	29	34
Geelong	22	8	6	8	29	25	30
Geelong Rangers	22	8	5	9	34	37	29
Sydenham Park	22	9	2	11	29	37	29
Westvale	22	8	3	11	24	30	27
Plenty Valley Lions	21	8	2	11	26	42	26
Avondale Heights	22	7	4	11	30	36	25
Corio	22	2	3	17	18	52	9

The Honours

Champions: Ballarat Red Devils
Runner Up: Cairlea
Relegated: Avondale Heights, Corio

Top Scorers

Ashley Lymn Ballarat Soccer Club 12
Troy Hardy Geelong Rangers 11
Marin Jancic Avondale Heights 11
Erdem Koc Cairnlea 11

Reserves Final Standings

Westvale 3 Banyule City 1 , Avondale Heights 1 Corio 0 , Ballarat Red Devils 2 Geelong 0 , Plenty Valley Lions Lalor , Geelong Rangers 2 Sydenham Park 1 , La Trobe University 0 Cairnlea 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lalor	21	14	6	1	50	15	48
Westvale	22	15	1	6	37	21	46
Ballarat Red Devils	22	14	3	5	40	21	45
La Trobe University	22	13	4	5	37	16	43
Geelong	22	11	3	8	29	25	36
Cairnlea	21	10	3	8	31	30	33
Plenty Valley Lions	21	8	6	7	35	37	30
Sydenham Park	22	8	3	11	28	28	27
Avondale Heights	22	6	4	12	27	41	22
Geelong Rangers	22	4	4	14	20	45	16
Banyule City	22	4	1	17	14	44	13
Corio	21	2	4	15	18	43	10

PROVI LEAGUE NORTH WEST 1
CHAMPIONS

NORTH SUNSHINE EAGLES

Back Row: F Isai (Sec), F Bekiri (Asst Coach), R Isac, D Dodaj, A Sulemani, D Huseyin, I Bekiri, K Ristevski, T Latomanski, A Isai (Capt) D Perkin (Coach) F Bekiri (Pres).
Front Row: D De Sousa, L Rustemovski, D Ajro, A Warden (GK), O Fehmi, O Ogluin, G Muslia.
AbsentA Christofilakis, A Bibaj.

After two consecutives demotions (2005 - 2006) a return to State Competitition for North Sunshine Eagles.

This year the team started slow but on the back of returned veterans and talented young players saw the team get stronger each week with continues wins ands draws for 13 weeks.

The 3rd championship for coach David Perkin at North Sunshine. The team was led by Captain Arben Isai and clean sheets by goalkeeper Anthony Chritofilakis, sweeper Ted Latomanski drove the team to galant victories.

Seniors Final Standings

Darebin Utd 1 (J Nikolarakos) Hume Utd 4 (E Karasungur, H Al - Husaini 3) (HT: 1-3), Glenroy 4 (S Bebic, T Grgic, I Dragicevic, S Saric) South Yarra 0 (HT: 3-0), Hoppers Crossing 1 (T Kiflom) Melbourne City 3 (H Nunez 3) (HT: 0-0), North Sunshine Eagles 1 (K Ristevski) Elwood City 3 (A Gamble, J Oakes, E Walsh) (HT: 1-0), Western Eagles 1 (K Leski) West Preston 2 (M Bonafede 2) (HT: 0-0), Melbourne University Rangers 5 (A Kotsos, J Brochet, B Mitchell, R McGrane 2) Laverton Park 2 (V De La Plaza, J Sobarzo) (HT: 3-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North Sunshine Eagles	22	15	2	5	50	20	47
Laverton Park	22	13	5	4	47	25	44
Hume Utd	22	12	4	6	49	33	40
Glenroy	22	12	3	7	48	28	39
Melbourne UniRangers	22	10	8	4	39	20	38
South Yarra	22	10	5	7	25	27	35
Western Eagles	22	8	6	8	31	32	30
Melbourne City	22	7	6	9	28	28	27
Elwood City	22	6	5	11	25	36	23
Hoppers Crossing	22	6	1	15	19	41	19
Darebin Utd	22	3	7	12	18	54	16

The Honours

Champions: Nth Sunshine Eagles
Runner Up: Laverton Park
Relegated: Hoppers Crossing, Darebin

Top Scorers

Kiril Ristevski North Sunshine Eagles 16
Javier Sobarzo Laverton Park 16
Konrad Leski Western Eagles 14

Reserves Final Standings

Darebin Utd 3 Hume Utd 5 , Glenroy 3 South Yarra 6 , Hoppers Crossing 0 Melbourne City 2 , North Sunshine Eagles 2 Elwood City 1 , Western Eagles 1 West Preston 4 , Melbourne University Rangers 4 Laverton Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Yarra	22	17	3	2	51	13	54
Melbourne UniRangers	22	14	1	7	32	14	43
West Preston	22	10	7	5	28	26	37
Elwood City	22	9	6	7	29	21	33
Hume Utd	22	9	6	7	29	27	33
Melbourne City	22	7	8	7	17	19	29
North Sunshine Eagles	21	7	6	8	30	29	27
Laverton Park	21	6	8	7	25	27	26
Hoppers Crossing	22	6	5	11	20	38	23
Glenroy	22	5	6	11	30	37	21
Darebin Utd	22	4	5	13	20	43	17
Western Eagles	22	3	7	12	17	34	16

STATE LEAGUE SOUTH EAST 3
CHAMPIONS

FRANKSTON STRIKERS FC

Back Row: George Hughes (Coach), Marcus Browlie, Gary Hughes, Damien Nadjer, Luke Ventieri, Alex Rae (Captain), Steve Keenan, John Jovan, Robbie Currie, Doug Chisolm (Asst Coach).
Front Row: Sean Flynn, Matt Pearce, Micky Moore, Damien Bradbury, Murat Dermikol, Mark Le Gnok, Simon O'Donnell, Jamie Skelly.

With only avoiding relegation by the skin of their teeth in season 2006, Frankston Strikers have turned their fortunes around with sheer hard work.

Quick to re-appoint George Hughes who came on board midway through last season and helped them to avoid the prospect of Provisional League football

Starting pre-season training early January, George sought the services of Dougie Chisholm as assistant coach who he has worked with on and off for the past few years. Both put there charges thru there paces in various local locations, with the drought kicking in, Centenary Park was never going to recover the work carried out by the Council late last year. So between the Karingal gym,Seaford beach and Monash University for training facilities the coaches then set about attracting young local talent to the club.

The Council's decision to play all home games away from Centenary Park was an unavoidable inconvenience; old Karingal ground at Ballam Park was the new temporary home venue.

George's knowledge of the local talent stood him in good stead with the signings of Damien Nadjer, Gareth Evans, Jamie Skelly and John Jovan from Div 1 club Langwarrin, he also somewhat remarkably persuaded 2 very well known players Greg Kilner and Simon O'Donnell to ply there skills in the 3rd Div. Greg's experience was invaluable although a long term knee injury ruled him out all season, Simon on the other hand went on to have a sensational season scoring 23 goals in the promotion campaign.

Old heads Alex Rae (capt) Steve Keenan, mixed with the experienced Robbie Currie, Mickey Moore and Lee Wilkinson gave the squad a balanced look with a host of youngsters coming in. George also picked up Matt Minor, goalkeeper from Nth Caulfield who had just won promotion the year before.

Marcus Brownlie (21) Gary Hughes(22) Joe Donaghy (16) Luke Ventieri (21) Mark Le Gnok (21) Matt Pearce (24) are the real future of the club as they pursue a life in Div2.

With Joe Donaghy currently trialing overseas at 16 already a regular in the starting eleven the emphasis is certainly on youth mixed with the right type of experience.

Promotion was wrapped up at Darebin on a cold Wednesday night in late August with a catch up game against rivals Endeavour Utd, 2 goals from the reliable O'Donnell and 2 from Murat Demirkol signed mid season from Cranbourne secured a 4-1 win and promotion to 2nd Div.

The League title was won Saturday the 8th with a 1-0 win against Nunawading City.

The merge with Peninsula Junior Soccer club was a significant step with the senior squad now backed up with juniors from under 7s all the way the thru to u'18s, and a new name borne Peninsula Strikers, which will come into effect next season

Dave Reid and Jimmy Stewart, the emphasis again on youth with up to 6 players all under 15 playing every week, ably looked after the Reserves.

The committee has worked hard and supports George Hughes in his quest to get Strikers back up the leagues where they have enjoyed some success in the past.

The supporters are a very loyal and vocal bunch down at the Strikers and when the Pines and Langwarrin are not playing they get the added support to cheer on the boys.

Good luck to all at Peninsula Strikers for 2008.

Seniors Final Standings

Endeavour Utd 2 (HS Garcha 2) Sandringham City 3 (J Clapham, S Karanasios 2) (HT: 1-2), Eastern Lions 3 (MJ O'Hare, M Orlando) Fitzroy City 4 (D Reljic, JD Moukassa-Mbani, N Jones) (HT: 2-3), Nunawading City 0 Frankston Strikers 1 (S Keenan) (HT: 0-0), Doveton 9 (L Buhic 5, GS Davidson, BP Murphy 2, R Ulusoy) Springvale City 0 (HT: 5-0), Berwick City 0 Southern Suburbs 0 (HT: 0-0), Mooroolbark 0 Morwell Pegasus 4 (A Savage, F Albanese 2, P Byrne) (HT: 0-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Strikers	22	15	3	4	57	26	48
Eastern Lions	22	14	2	6	41	28	44
Doveton	22	13	1	8	42	33	40
Morwell Pegasus	22	13	1	8	42	33	40
Endeavour Utd	22	13	1	8	40	24	39
Southern Suburbs	22	9	3	10	29	32	30
Sandringham City	22	8	3	11	31	36	27
Springvale City	22	8	2	12	36	57	26
Berwick City	22	7	3	12	30	35	24
Fitzroy City	22	8	0	14	37	51	24
Nunawading City	22	6	3	13	27	37	20
Mooroolbark	22	6	2	14	26	46	20

The Honours

Champions: Frankston Strikers
Runner Up: Eastern Lions
Relegated: Nunawading, Mooroolbark

Top Scorers

Simon O'Donnell Frankston Strikers 23
Leon Buhic Doveton 20
Murat Demirkol Frankston Strikers 14
Frank Albanese Morwell Pegasus 13

Reserves Final Standings

Endeavour Utd 4 Sandringham City 0 , Eastern Lions 0 Fitzroy City 1 , Nunawading City 2 Frankston Strikers 3 , Doveton 3 Springvale City 0 , Berwick City 0 Southern Suburbs 2 , Mooroolbark 0 Morwell Pegasus 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mooroolbark	22	12	9	1	34	16	45
Morwell Pegasus	22	11	6	5	41	21	39
Fitzroy City	22	10	7	5	41	34	37
Doveton	21	11	3	7	38	21	36
Eastern Lions	22	10	4	8	32	24	34
Sandringham City	22	9	6	7	40	26	33
Nunawading City	22	8	4	10	35	31	28
Berwick City	21	7	6	8	26	21	27
Endeavour Utd	21	6	8	7	24	21	26
Southern Suburbs	21	6	7	8	20	30	25
Frankston Strikers	22	6	5	11	38	52	23

PROVI LEAGUE SOUTH EAST 1
CHAMPIONS

BRANDON PARK FC

Back Row: Robert Esmerian (Team Manager), Andrew Mashoian, Livio Benedo (Coach), Aris Hoskian, Ilias Tzentsis, Stefan Benedos, Manuk Delikanya, Robert Benedos, Stuart Kennedy, James Collard, Vito Giarratana, Anthony Gelgec, Darrell Roberts (Asst Coach), Kevin Bahar (Team Manager).
Front Row: Juan Fernando Humpart, Garry Mousako, Arthur Kumruyan, Shant Ulas, Hakim Ahmed, Steve Kiryazis, Chris Colaneri. Absent: Mussimo Crea

After a 4th place finish in 2006 which proved to be agonisingly close to promotion, Brandon Park has sealed the 2007 Provisional League 1 South East title. The club has been outstanding this season, wrapping up the title with 2 games to spare.

Two early wins away from home followed by another 2 strong performances set up an early advantage for the Brandon Park boys. The winning form continued throughout the middle of the season, with wins against Rowville, Noble Park and a second victory against a resilient Monash side. Other highlights included a Robert Benedos equaliser in torrential rain in the dying minutes at Warragul, a thumping win away to White Star Dandenong and a late winner against Croydon to seal the championship.

The Brandon Park side was remarkably consistent throughout the year; with a record of 14 wins, 6 draws and a solitary loss which came in the 92nd minute against a pumped up Monbulk side chasing promotion. The backline has been the strongest in the league, with only 19 goals conceded all season. This has provided the midfield and top goal scorer Robert Benedos with much needed stability and support. Coach Livio Benedos has had to deal with several important injuries at crucial stages throughout the season, and this has tested the squad's resilience. Not only did the players dig deep, they managed to continue their winning form and consolidate the bond that many players share in the squad.

The club will now wrap up its 2007 campaign with a home game against Noble Park this Saturday.

Brandon Park SC will now embark on a new adventure, entering the State Leagues for the first time in the distinguished history. With a stable squad, great atmosphere and a good mix of young talent and experience, the club is hoping to consolidate itself and make an impact in State League 3 in 2008.

Congratulations to Brandon Park Soccer Club on a massive 2007 season.

Seniors Final Standings

White Star Dandenong 0 Old Melburnians 2 (B Lynch, T Rickman) (HT: 0-1), Berwick Kings 1 (J Pino) Lyndale Utd 2 (G Murray, MC Johnson) (HT: 0-2), Monbulk 0 Croydon City Arrows 1 (M Zoppos) (HT: 0-0), Riversdale 1 (C Priftis) Rowville Eagles 1 (A Sabau) (HT: 0-1), Brandon Park 1 (S Kyriazis) Noble Park Utd 2 (C Durand, D Stojanovic) (HT: 0-1), Warragul Utd 0 Monash University 0 (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brandon Park	22	14	6	2	44	21	48
Croydon City Arrows	22	13	4	5	40	26	43
Monbulk	22	12	6	4	47	22	42
Noble Park Utd	22	9	5	8	37	38	32
Monash University	22	8	5	9	40	39	29
White Star Dandenong	22	8	5	9	39	47	29
Warragul Utd	22	7	7	8	36	31	28
Old Melburnians	22	7	5	10	37	43	26
Rowville Eagles	22	6	8	8	24	32	26
Berwick Kings	22	8	1	13	38	48	25
Riversdale	22	5	5	12	31	43	20
Lyndale Utd	22	5	3	14	33	56	18

The Honours

Champions: Brandon Park
Runner Up: Croydon City Arrows
Relegated: Riversdale, Lyndale Utd

Top Scorers

Brechan Adams Monbulk 14
Robert Benedos Brandon Park 12
Matthew Zoppos Croydon City Arrows 12

Reserves Final Standings

White Star Dandenong 1 Old Melburnians 2 , Berwick Kings 0 Lyndale Utd 1 , Monbulk 0 Croydon City Arrows 2 , Riversdale 0 Rowville Eagles 1 , Brandon Park 0 Noble Park Utd 0 , Warragul Utd 2 Monash University 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lyndale Utd	22	15	5	2	55	28	50
Warragul Utd	22	13	5	4	46	28	44
Croydon City Arrows	22	12	6	4	34	15	42
Monash University	22	11	4	7	49	20	37
Berwick Kings	22	7	8	7	26	26	29
Riversdale	22	8	5	9	24	25	29
Old Melburnians	21	6	8	7	28	23	26
Rowville Eagles	21	6	8	7	25	31	26
Monbulk	22	5	9	8	30	33	24
Brandon Park	22	5	8	9	17	32	23
Noble Park Utd	22	4	9	9	16	29	21
White Star Dandenong	22	0	3	19	9	69	3

MELTON PHOENIX FC

Front Row: Len Abela (Team Manager), Jacob Ogle, George Ionita, Davis Lister, Shaun Agius, Michael Abela, Robert D'Antonio, Ryan Pongrac.
Back Row: Allan Docherty (Mediacal Officer), Ramzey Yassin, Liam McMahon, Joseph Turnaturi, James Fabjancic, David Farmer, Sean Marno, Duncan Gray, Stephen Paddon, Michael Docherty (Asst Coach), Roy Collins (Coach),.
Absent: Neil Keltie.

As our emblem signifies, the Phoenix certainly rose from the ashes this year for our club.

The committee this year has been together for 3 years and from the start we had a "3 year" plan. The hiccup in this plan was that we got relegated the first year, but rebuilding club morale and a quality senior team was a high priority for us. We did that last year and missed out on promotion by one point, and to their credit this year all the players banded together, especially as the reserves won a championship last year.

The senior side this year was a mix of experienced campaigners and some very young players. We are very proud that we still have home grown players in this side, and have depth in our squad now which was something that had been missing in the past.

In one sentence our promotion came from players understanding each other, a lot of "quality", and most of all, some days when we thought all was lost, absolute guts and determination, it's very rare that you can call a team "family".

Seniors Final Standings

Epping City 1 (M Nerone) Melton 1 (S Paddon) (HT: 1-0), Dallas Eagles 1 (E Durnaoglu) Reservoir Utd 0 (HT: 1-0), Meadow Park 3 (J McAndrew 3) Ascot Vale 1 (R Galloghly) (HT: 3-0), Essendon Utd 2 (A Andrevski, P Koukoulis) Youth Utd 1 (D Kaya) (HT: 1-0), Hallam 1 (O Tandogal) Northern Utd 1 (S Dodevski) (HT: 0-0), Watsonia Heights 3 (M Tavolaro 2, OM Ali) Brunswick Zebras 2 (D Romagnano, L Hayes) (HT: 1-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melton	22	16	5	1	55	18	53
Essendon Utd	22	16	2	4	55	25	50
Dallas Eagles	22	13	6	3	43	17	45
Epping City	22	13	5	4	62	26	44
Watsonia Heights	22	11	3	8	44	38	36
Youth Utd	22	9	5	8	50	36	32
Ascot Vale	22	7	4	11	34	40	25
Brunswick Zebras	22	6	4	12	29	56	22
Northern Utd	22	5	5	12	35	60	20
Reservoir Utd	22	6	1	15	32	57	19
Meadow Park	22	3	4	15	32	57	13

The Honours

Champions: Melton Phoenix
Runner Up: Essendon United
Relegated: Reservoir Utd, Meadow Park

Top Scorers

Marco Tavolaro Watsonia Heights 17
Con Spaliaras Epping City 16
Sean Mamo Melton 15

Reserves Final Standings

Epping City 2 Melton 1 , Dallas Eagles 7 Reservoir Utd 2 , Meadow Park 3 Ascot Vale 3 , Essendon Utd 4 Youth Utd 2 , Hallam 5 Northern Utd 3 , Watsonia Heights 4 Brunswick Zebras 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	22	13	6	3	46	17	45
Essendon Utd	22	13	5	4	30	17	44
Dallas Eagles	22	11	6	5	47	22	39
Melton	22	9	7	6	35	30	34
Youth Utd	22	10	4	8	43	42	34
Epping City	22	8	8	6	45	22	32
Ascot Vale	22	6	12	4	27	31	30
Reservoir Utd	22	6	9	7	31	42	27
Meadow Park	22	4	11	7	21	28	23
Brunswick Zebras	22	5	7	10	27	38	22
Hallam	22	3	7	12	23	47	13
Northern Utd	22	1	4	17	14	53	7

PROVI LEAGUE SOUTH EAST 3

CHAMPIONS

OLD BRIGHTON GRAMMAR

Back Row: Marshall Sayer, James Pennycuick, Matt Cartwright, James Lake, Jonothan Prendergast, Chris Zielinski, Con Nikitsas (Coach), Matthew Hunt
Front Row: George Varsarmis, Dylan Hall, Jon Salvage, Matt Cameron, Ricky Damiano, David Webb

Seniors Final Standings

Eltham North Bye , Ringwood City 2 (S Harrison 2) Old Camberwell Grammar 7 (P Margin 4, J Sprekos, J Bush 2) (HT: 1-4), Brighton 3 (C Dongalis, S Durston - Ryan, P McCaig) Bundoora Utd 0 (HT: 2-0), Boroondara Lions 2 (J Toumazou, JR Geribello) Dandenong Warriors 1 (SJ Tharakon) (HT: 1-1), Dandenong City 1 (K Hasanzada) Old Brighton Grammarians 1 (R Damiano) (HT: 1-1), Old Carey 6 (R Stanner, D MacDonald 2, F Zhao, L Udorovic, L Minopoulos) Endeavour Hills 1 (G Quaremba) (HT: 1-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Brighton Gramm	20	16	3	1	64	16	51
Old Camberwell Gramm	20	15	5	0	61	18	50
Old Carey	20	12	5	3	58	20	41
Boroondara Lions	20	12	5	3	44	19	41
Dandenong City	20	8	3	9	36	38	27
Endeavour Hills	20	8	3	9	33	47	27
Eltham North	20	5	6	9	25	37	21
Brighton	20	4	2	14	28	41	14
Dandenong Warriors	20	4	2	14	22	46	14
Ringwood City	20	3	5	12	19	59	14
Bundoora Utd	20	1	5	14	20	69	8

The Honours

Champions: Old Brighton Grammarians
Runner Up: Old Camberwell Grammar
Relegated: N/A

Top Scorers

Leigh Minopoulos Old Carey 19
Dylan Hall Old Brighton Grammarians 18
Richard Stanner Old Carey 15

Reserves Final Standings

Eltham North Bye , Ringwood City 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 , Brighton 2 Bundoora Utd 2 , Boroondara Lions 0 Dandenong Warriors 1 , Dandenong City 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 3 , Old Carey 1 Endeavour Hills 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Camberwell Gramm	20	15	4	1	54	21	49
Dandenong Warriors	20	13	3	4	41	25	42
Old Carey	20	11	3	6	38	20	36
Old Brighton Gramm	20	10	4	6	38	29	34
Brighton	20	7	6	7	28	23	27
Endeavour Hills	20	8	3	9	29	32	27
Bundoora Utd	20	8	3	9	29	33	27
Ringwood City	20	5	7	8	22	28	22
Boroondara Lions	20	5	3	12	20	30	18
Dandenong City	20	4	3	13	22	55	15
Eltham North	20	2	5	13	16	41	11

After some shrewed summer signings by the club including head coach Con Nikitsas, OBGSC set out a clear instruction that promotion to Provisional 2 was the benchmark for the forthcoming season.

The team warmed quickly to that idea in early January, where the team stayed focused despite the lack of a training facility.

After last seasons disappointing finish, the team was keen to make amends early on, and after some indifferent pre season form the league started brightly for OBGSC, with nine points coming from the first three games, however injuries took there toll on the squad when an understrengthed Brighton came up against Old Camberwell Grammar, who seemed to rise to the challenge and in a ten minute lapse of concentration hit 4 goals to put them in the box seat early on in the season.

This seemed to spur on OBGSC and the team rallied on for the next 17 games unbeaten with impressive performances all around the park, with leading scorer Dylan Hall seeming to turn to gold anything put in front of him with great service from Matthew Hunt, Chris Zielinski, Matt Cameron and George Varsarmis.

OBGSC deservedly ran out the season as champions, clearly showing that this is to be one of the strongest squads in the provisional leagues, the defensive trio of Lake, Cartwright and Prendergast seemed to cope with the defensive pressure with ease and David Webb's performances a key indicator of the great depth all around the squad.

OBGSC looks forwarded to another tough pre season to lead up to what is hopefully going to be another successful year in 2008 for the club.

TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

ARGENTINOS ELLIPSIS.

What kind of a word is that? Look it up. It's a doozie.

Just think. You can watch a bunch of overpaid superstars working their magic, skill and showing the reason why 70,000+ people pay to watch them play. Alternatively, you can watch a free game on a Sunday, with underpaid glory mongers, who free load every club they play for, and want more pie to fill the void in their bottomless pit just to see the same end result. That being, a pack of fairies falling over at the slightest touch, screaming Watership Down and then getting up and running off after the magic water has miraculously transformed them from a football fatality, to a Springbok.

Amazing how this happens only after a team has taken the lead, and there's only ten minutes to play on the Fat Cat Clock. No wonder Aussie Diggers can't get into "Soccer". It's a girl's game. Buncha poofters fallin' over and havin a whinge. I remember Glen Archer playing with a broken neck every week for ten years. Dermott Brereton getting' crunched by Mark Yates, spewin' up blood, then taking a grab 30 seconds later and bangin' a goal top put the Hawks up in the '89 Grand Final. Robert DiPierdomenico played with a punctured lung for flog's sake.

But no, we've got Lionel Messi being pulled back by the shirt at shoulder height, and he falls down like a pack of 'spuds, rolling on the ground holding his ankle. (insert vulgarity here) 2cents isn't enough to verbalize this stupidity. It all started in South America, and by gum, it'll have to be stopped there. Before it's too late for us purists who are dying out faster than a bad pun in a free newspaper. B'doom boom tssssss .

I had the misfortune of witnessing this rubbish at the VPL Elimination Final betwixt Green Gully and Whittlesea Zebras. The Zebras had just taken the lead 2-1 during extra time and with about ten minuten to go, they start rolling around boo hoo frikkin'hoo ha. The slightest tap, and baboom. They had stepped on a landmine. Totally detracts any fluid from the game. I can understand the excuse for doing it, but I certainly won't agree or endorse it.
Any player who hits the deck and asks for treatment should be immediately taken off for said "treatment", and not allowed to return for 3 minutes. Heck, make it 5. Except for the goalkeepers of course. That'll fix the Diego's from fulfilling their life long ambition of an Academy Award .

AUSSIE PRIDE JUST WIDE

Great to see 70,000+ fans to watch a "friendly". No, it wasn't the Falklands, but hey, that's not my place to say. I'm unofficially "retired" from "active service" in "military" terms. Wouldn't want the men in black paying us a visit, it'll get Messi. Why can't we as a football loving nation make any atmosphere at an International game, playing no less than at the MCG? OZZIE-OZZIE-OZZIE….OI-OI-OI? Give me a Kit Kat, please. The only rocking going on, was by a handful of Blue and White Argentinos near good ol' Bay 13. Considering there was no Viduka, Kewell, Cahill and Colosimo, our boys on the park did us proud against a full strength World Number 2 ranked side.

Kudos to the Argentineans, who brought their full strength brew along for the ride. Pity they didn't hang out long enough to go down the Great Ocean Road, or watch an AFL game. That's right mate. A chance to surf and chill, or maybe see a scrap with an egg. Pity we didn't take the lead with Bresciano's free kick, as that would've changed the predictability of the game.

The ref was brilliant. Mike Dean est his nomme. The bet thing to come out of England since my missus. Called everything right, and let the flow go more than other refs would've.
Carney is reminisce of a Craig Moore clone, and Lucas Neil should stop plucking his eyebrows. Josh "F" Kennedy gave the AFA a headache with the aggressiveness of a Big Red Kanga, whilst Skoko was seen but not Hird. Shame, that. The boy has come a long way from playing in the VPL with North Geelong 13 years ago. So, yay for the Green and Gold. Can't wait for The Ashes.

CAVALIERO SYMPATICO

Green Gully bowed out of the race for the VPL title, crashing and burning outside the straight at Albert Park. They had the better run of play and more chances to score, but choked yet again, as they have done far too often this season. It's been their story of the year. Captain Dean Fak has vowed that Gully will be a better outfit next season, and with a soul searching team talk this Wednesday night, me thinks heads will roll.

TS "Disappointing is an understatement. What happened to Gully this year?"

DF "It seems we were playing in patches all season. We'd go up 2-0, and give the game \away. Some players were carrying others, and some players lost confidence. We had issues with the soft goals conceded, and had injuries with our strikers. But I don't want to make excuses. The bottom line is we weren't good enough."

TS "Video killed the Radio Star. What killed Gully?"

DF "Lack of consistency, by far. Unless you can string it together for 90 minutes, then sooner or later, you'll fall in the hole."

TS "Who put the Coke in the hose?"

DF "Who is Smokey the Bear?"

TS "At least you made the finals, though."

DF "Some teams may be thrilled to finish 5th or 6th, but Gully is used to success. Not finishing in the top three means that some players have to take a good, hard look at themselves and decide if they want to play and push it to the limit."

TS "You gonna keep goin' you old fart.?"

DF "Watch it pal. As long as Gully wants me, I'll be there. Personally it's very satisfying to continue playing, and I've definitely got at least one more season in me at this level. To achieve the rewards, you have to make the effort. At a club level, well, the bar has been raised by the other teams, and we have to make sure that all of us give it a crack to win again."

TS "The Diaz Brothers are buying out Casper Gomez, and will take over the North-West Side FC. Have you been approached to play, coach etc. com?

DF "I've been contacted indirectly, but negotiations are being conducted through my manager, Ron, who also goes by the pseudonym Saso."

TS "Sanitation, or Sanitarium?"

DF "Definitely Sanitation."

VPL MAMBO TANGO RUMBA SAMBA

Preston through.
The Knights feeling blue.
Cannons are firing.
The Zebras aren't tiring.
The Magic is gone.
Cavalier Swan Song.

And the Song Remains The Same.
Led Zeppelin is getting back together and taking on a World Tour.
Next thing you know the Beatles will hit the road again, and Strawberry Fields will be beside Abbey Road singing Coo Coo Cachew.
Brazil make great nuts.

I am the Walrus.

Yours Truly;
Tsigan Forever.

MELBOURNE VICTORY
LIVE ON FOXTEL

Support
Melbourne Victory at
Eastern Lions Clubrooms
ON LARGE FLAT SCREEN

Friday 21st September	vs	Newcastle Jets 7.30pm
Saturday 6th October	vs	Sydney 7.00pm
Friday 12th October	vs	Adelaide United 7.30pm
Friday 16th November	vs	Queensland 7.00pm
Monday 31st December	vs	Central Coast 6.00pm

Check out website for further deatils
www.easternlions.com.au

Free Entry
B.Y.O. Nibbles
Drinks at Bar Prices
Friends and Family Welcomed

Eastern Lions Soccer Club

Australia's Largest Circulating
Independent Football Fanzine
Wants to Hear from You!

GW Seeking Sponsors for 2008
P 9645 1440

BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

How is it that the website www3.globalscore.com can have almost up to the minute score updates on Foxtel Cup games yet the official FFV website can sometimes take a day or two to get a score up, often the full Results Vault details taking even longer to appear?

The other side if the world are putting the scores up quicker than we can, what does that say about our organisation?

Delays in getting scores up on the website can match delays in getting out of Epping Stadium after a game with a few thousand people in attendance. If there are any organisations even more "fine happy" than the FFV they are local councils, and the City of Whittlesea had a field day on Saturday issuing fines of up to $220 for illegal parking. How much of this money will be put back into more parking or easing traffic congestion after matches? I'd say nothing, a lot like the percentage of fines accumulated by the FFV put back into Foxtel Cup prizemoney or promotion.

Parking congestion around Aussie Stadium in Sydney can be a major issue at times as well. Sydney FC fans aren't feeling this problem to much at the moment, so much have their numbers diminished. They will all be able to car pool in the same vehicle before long. And if the budget gets tight, don't be suprised if injured marquee signing Juninho is given a few shifts cleaning some Westfield Shoppingtowns to pay his way.

So, where exactly were the meter maids on Saturday?

Huge crowd at the MCG on Tuesday for a friendly with Argentina on Tuesday. Post-game I noted some almost sacreligious comments regarding the MCG and it's suitability for football. Many overseas stadiums with athletics tracks around the pitch see the action just as far away from the crowd as the MCG. If the game was lacking in atmosphere it is more likely to be the result of it being a meaningless friendly and people content to sit back and drool over the ability of guys like Lionel Messi. Don't tell me the MCG can't produce atmosphere, that just means you weren't there in 1997 for a certain game against Iran and therefore do not know what you are talking about.

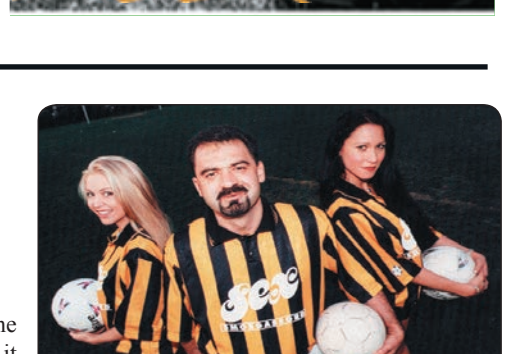
The next national team coach better be Dutch or Brazilian, just so we can be spared Craig Foster articles attacking them. He will probably be very happy if the rumours of Dick Advocaat getting the nod are true, as he loves Dick.

I used to pay out on Scottish football, but that got boring after a few years. Now they upset France, and I can't do it anymore. The beliefs and habits of a lifetime are being destroyed here! Faroe Islands are still rubbish, aren't they? Do I still have that to cling on to?

Youth Tour Germany 2008

(Easter break) 15 days
Age Group: U18s
(born in 1989, 1990, 1991)
Tournament – Dusseldorf
Many countries competing
(including European & Asian teams)

Opportunity of a life time
Email expressions of interest to:
kris.kalifatidis@iag.com.au
Ph: 0401 711 938



Katsa's Korner

With George Katsamboukas

8-26

Katsa's Scoreboard Sponsored by W N Field & J Walker

Money Time for the Vodafone Cup Clubs, as the Finals are now on in earnest.

First team to bow out was Altona Magic; there will be more to follow over the next few weeks. Pity that the finals could not be organised as Double Headers, however, the FFV , G'Day Mark, have got this one right this time, as they will have their hands full ensuring that there is no crowd violence at single games, without having to worry about controlling "enthusiastic" spectators at double headers.

Once again, Soccer is the loser.

Another wicket fell right on the buzzer last week, with Doug Hodgson parting ways from the Richmond Eagles. The scorer marked this one down, and has retired for a well earned rest.

I had 2 choices last Sunday afternoon.

Recover from another duel with J Walker from the night before, or venture down to Bartlett Reserve to witness the relegation battle between the Sunshine Georgies and the Richmond Eagles.

Tough choice, the lure of the Richmond Lady's Cakes at half time won me over.

Apple Strudel, Black Forest Cake
The Georgies copped an absolute hiding, conceding 8 goals, and will now play in State 1 next year.

Unless…….

The whisper of another relegated Vodafone Cup Club hiring a team of Legal Eagles, who will challenge the FFV's 2007 Rules of Competition, is true.

Interesting announcement was made from the FFV regarding abandoned games last week, with some tough penalties being haded down to Clubs whose games were abandoned due to on field violence.

It takes one team to start violence; obviously the opposing team will try and protect themselves, they will be punished also. The non aggressor will also be charged by the FFV and penalised.

The Match result will be declared a non result, sets up an interesting precedent now where if team A plays team B, and team B needs no points from this match, but team A does, simple solution for team B, Lets get ready to rumble will be the call, and the job's done!

Surely this cannot be right Mark?

There has been much debate over the years as to whether teams north of the Yarra were better than teams from the south of the Yarra.

Footballing wise, it's a close call. However the Boys from the North win hands down when it comes to after dark activities.

The Commodore has made the trek North for a number of functions held there during the year, Katsa's innocent eyes has witnessed some wild scenes.

The latest was one Club President needing to use the Fire Hose to clean up the "mess" left by his players and spectators, at 3 AM one Sunday Morning.

Double Bubble for the FFV this week.

The Plenty Valley Lions Vs Lalor game could not be played last weekend, due to some handy carpentry work being performed on the now, half chopped Goal Posts.

Enter the FFV, who rescheduled the match to be played at Darebin HQ last Wednesday night; however, this match did not go ahead either, as the Men in Black did not arrive.

Reminds me an article I read a few days ago in the local press, with a "Happy End" "Pipty Dollar, Luv You Long Time" establishment being operated 400 metres from the Vice Squad in the City, there I

Was on Wednesday Night 400 metres from FFV HQ, and no refs!

Some more word association:
Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous – Paid up Vodafone Cup Players.
Poverty Line – Unpaid Vodafone Cup Players

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

BAYSWATER INDOOR SOCCER SHOP

20% OFF ALL FOOTWEAR

SUPPLIERS OF: **COVO**NIKE** MITRE**PATRICK**ONLY SPORT**
FFV APPROVED TEAM WEAR AND SOCCERBALLS
FOR THE BEST CLUB DEALS OF BALLS, GLOVES AND TEAMWEAR

20% OFF ALL FOOTWEAR

13 BURTON COURT, BAYSWATER PHONE 9729 1999
HOURS: MON-FRI 10AM-10PM SAT 9AM TO 1PM

Soccer Pools Cup Semi-Finals

LYONS' LIONS LINE UP CUP FINAL DATE

Stirling Lions 2
Inglewood United 1

Stirling Lions are off to the Soccer Pools Cup Final for the second consecutive season after coming back from a goal down to defeat an inform Inglewood United at Macedonia Park.

The reward for Mick Lyons young cubs is a mouth watering clash with Cockburn City at Members Equity Stadium on Sunday, 7 October 2007 with the winner to be holding aloft the prestigious Soccer Pools Cup.

The Lions had to fight for the win. An impressive Inglewood controlled the first half with a Michael Baczynski penalty putting the visitors ahead before a crucial injury time equalizer to 17 year old Matt Italiano had the sides all square at the break before a late Andy Brown header had the strong crowd roaring with delight.

The match was slow to get started with neither side wanting to give up an early goal in this match of attrition with Inglewood passing the ball around well on the poor surface.

On 11 minutes Daniel Niederberger had the first chance of the match when he latched on to a Dean Apelgren free kick that had spilled in the box but could only lift his shot over the bar.

Inglewood were controlling the play with the aid of the breeze and Niederberger was a huge threat for his side but should have done better with a 20th minute chance that he lifted over the bar after running onto a delightful Baczynski ball. It was to prove the inform strikers last contribution of the game as he limped off with a thigh injury that will most likely see him miss the rest of the season.

Stirling were largely non-existent as an attacking force and despite having a one man advantage over Inglewood for 10 minutes as Shane Pryce received treatment to a cut on the face, couldn't break down the visitors defence.

Two minutes before half time controversy erupted when what looked to be a harmless ball into the Stirling box saw keeper Phil Straker come to collect the ball and inexplicably lash out at Kevin Griffiths as the players crossed paths; Griffiths going down grabbing his stomach. Referee Steve Muldoon consulted his assistant Troy Miller and subsequently awarded a penalty to Inglewood with Straker shown a yellow card. Baczynski stepped up and duly dispatched the ball into the net to put the visitors into a deserved lead.

It didn't last long however as in first half stoppage time a low cross from Tom Jones dribbled across the six yard area where Italiano got enough on the ball to bobble it over the wrong footed keeper and into the net. It was a cruel blow to Inglewood and allowed Stirling to go into the break with the momentum and they came out for the second half a different side as they pushed Inglewood back in search of the winner.

Steve Porter drifted a header just wide following an Andy Brown cross into the six yard area on 50 minutes before a string of corners had the Inglewood defence in all sorts of problems. Stirling defender Kevin Henderson was the first to head over the bar with Steve Hesketh also lobbing one just over after a corner had dropped to his feet only 10 yards out.

The Stirling sand pit then came to the aid of Inglewood, a loose ball following another wicked Porter corner getting stuck in the bog as a posse of players swarmed on the scraps, the ball eventually being cleared by Pryce.

The goal finally came for Stirling on 82 minutes when Italiano checked back inside on the left touchline and curled in an inch perfect cross onto the head of Andy Brown who guided the ball past Jason Razmovski from six yards.

Stirling coach Mick Lyons masterminded an impressive second half display from his side after a poor first half had Inglewood eyeing off the Final.

"There was quite a strong breeze in the first half and we couldn't get anything going. They had two or three half chances in the first half. We go 1-0 down to an unfortunate goal and then we came straight back and get an equalizer," said Lyons.

Big Andy Brown led the line superbly for his side and was ably assisted by Matt Italiano who scored one and supplied the ball for Brown to seal the win for the Lions.

"He did lead the line, he uses his weight to his advantage, and he's a very intelligent player and brings the other lads into the game. Matty is 17 and he's a good lad, he made his debut last week and it's nice in a way that so many young blokes are starting to come through," continued Lyons.

Bobby Despotovski thought Stirling keeper Phil Straker should have been shown a straight red for his assault on Kevin Griffiths in the first half.

"We didn't capitalize on the chances we had in the first half, and after we get a good break with the penalty which was practically out of nothing, a silly mistake by their goal keeper. He was very lucky to stay on the park to tell you the truth," said Despotovski.

"It would have been a completely different story had we of taken the one lead into half time and then come out controlling the game in the second half".

Stirling Lions will now face Cockburn City in the Soccer Pools Cup Final on Sunday, 7 October 2007 following Perth Glory's clash with Adelaide at Members Equity Stadium commencing at 7.15pm.

By Ben Fitzpatrick

In Perth

FOOTBALL WEST

FOOTBALL WEST DETAILS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Floreat Athena	20	16	4	0	62	23	39	52
Perth S.C.	20	12	4	4	53	21	32	40
Cockburn City	20	11	4	5	37	27	10	37
Stirling Lions	20	11	4	5	36	31	5	37
ECU Joondalup	20	9	8	3	40	23	17	35
Western Knights	20	9	4	7	48	32	16	31
Inglewood United	20	9	3	8	35	35	0	30
Fremantle Spirit	20	6	5	9	28	30	-2	23
Armadale	20	5	4	11	17	35	-18	19
Swan I.C.	20	4	3	13	34	58	-24	15
Sorrento F.C.	20	3	4	13	35	51	-16	13
Wanneroo City	20	1	1	18	24	83	-59	4

Fixtures Round 21

Friday, 21 September 2007
7:30 PM Floreat Athena v Western Knights

Saturday, 22 September 2007
3:00 PM Perth S.C. v Wanneroo City
3:00 PM Cockburn City v Swan I.C.
3:00 PM Stirling Lions v Fremantle Spirit
3:00 PM Inglewood United v Armadale
3:00 PM Sorrento F.C. v ECU Joondalup

COCKBURN BOOK PLACE IN FINAL

Cockburn City 1
Swan IC 0

A goal 12 minutes from time by Cockburn City striker Dean Wallace was enough for the home side to defeat Swan IC in a hard fought Soccer Pools Cup Semi-Final at Dalmatinac Park this afternoon.

It was a bright opening in blustery conditions with Damian Scali firing over in the opening minute for the Swans. But moments later the home side should have been in front; a defensive mix up let in Josh Kamasz who with only keeper Cory Hugo to beat fired wide. Then Cockburn keeper Dino Pacella saved a Brendan Knox shot as the game settled down after a frantic start.

On 17 minutes the Swans thought they had the lead; Dom Ando's free kick was dropped by keeper Pacella under pressure from Thomas Shepheard and rolled into the net. The Swans celebrated the goal, but after consulting his assistant, referee Mathew Cheeseman disallowed the goal for a foul on the keeper. The game became very scrappy for the remainder of the half with both sides guilty of giving the ball away cheaply. Michael Mirco tested Hugo late with a long-range shot and minutes before the break Paul Natale's cross from the left was headed wide by Liam Lilly.

The game sprung into life on 67 minutes as Swans youngster Michael Tronchin delivered a great cross from the right, Brendan Knox's header was saved by Pacella. Then it was Cockburn's turn; Wallace was the provider his run and cross from the right found Marko Aleksic, who had only been on the pitch a matter of minutes, his powerful header hit the base of the post and was cleared by McNally.

WA action from the Soccer Pools Semi Final between Cockburn City and Swan IC.

Cockburn were beginning to get on top and Mirco sent Giovanni De Bartolo in on goal on 74 minutes, but Hugo was out bravely to save at his feet. Moments later the Swans custodian tipped a Mirco long-range shot around the post at full stretch. But their pressure paid off with the winner on 78 minutes, a corner from the right found Wallace unmarked at the back post to head home.

The Swans pressed for the equaliser Cole's goal-bound shot was deflected wide by Jason Godfrey and Pacella saved well from a Scali shot. With the visitors pushing forward Cockburn should have wrapped it up on 87 minutes, Aleksic was in on goal but a superb last ditch tackle from McNally saved the day. The Swans pushed everyone forward in stoppage-time; Perich and Cole headed wide, but it was to no prevail and at the final whistle it was Cockburn city who move on to the Final to meet Stirling Lions who defeated Inglewood United 2-1 in the other Semi-Final today.

In other games, Cockburn City beat first division Forrestfield United 2-1 in the Under 23's Semi-Final thanks to a last minute penalty save from Louie Lopresti, and Western Knights beat Cockburn City 4-1 in the Under 18's Semi-final.

By Peter Simcox

Photo by Eduardo Photographics

By Nick Graham

BACK TO THE FUTURE, AGAIN!

Two wins, six unanswered goals and all is rosy again in Steve McLaren's garden. The shock recall of Wigan's Emile Heskey to partner Michael Owen up front proved to be either a masterstroke by the England coach or a huge slice of desperate good fortune. Owen certainly seems to like playing with Heskey and weighed in with three goals in impressive 3-0 home wins over both Israel and Russia.

Heskey's re-emergence appears short lived, however, after he suffered a suspected break of one of those dreaded metatarsals playing for Wigan against Fulham on Saturday. The injury is likely to rule him out of England's next two qualifiers in October, a visit to Wembley by Estonia followed by a tricky trip away to Russia. McLaren will be hoping to welcome back Wayne Rooney for those two games after the striker returned from his own latest metatarsal injury to rejoin the Manchester United squad for the 1-0 weekend win over Everton at Goodison.

Before Heskey's injury Liverpool's Peter Crouch must have been wondering whether he had dropped to fourth choice for England behind Owen, Rooney and big Emile. After being suspended for the Israel game he only managed ten minutes of the Russia game as a late replacement for Heskey and this season he has become a bit part player for Liverpool. Although he started Liverpool's 0-0 draw at Portsmouth at the weekend he was replaced by new boy Fernando Torres after an hour and it's likely he'll be back on the bench for the Champions League clash with Porto on Tuesday. With Rooney fit again it looks like back to square one for Crouch.

Heskey in happiers times

Behind the front two, Gareth Barry has staked a serious claim to retaining his central midfield slot ahead of Frank Lampard, Owen Hargreaves and Michael Carrick. Although not blessed with any sort of pace, Barry's accurate left foot was influential in both games where he provided a good balance with the more dynamic, right-footed Gerrard. McLaren seems to have finally stumbled across the old fashioned formula of playing players in their natural position and picking players based on position and form rather than reputation. Long may it continue.

In terms of qualifying, England's fate is now in their own hands. They have moved ahead of Russia and Israel into second place in Group E, three points behind the impressive Croatia who followed up a comfortable 2-0 home win over Estonia with a 6-0 hammering of group whipping boys Andorra.

England will hope Croatia have already clinched qualification by the time they visit Wembley for the final qualifying game in November. England may well still need a result in that game to ensure they'll be on the plane to Euro 2008.

Moody Bleus

Result of the week surely goes to Scotland who continued their hoodoo over France with a sensational 1-0 win at the Parc des Princes in Paris in Group B. A stunning strike from Everton's James McFadden combined with some heroics in goal from the Premier League's most expensive goalkeeper, Sunderland's Craig Gordon, clinched the three points for Alex McLeish's team. The result completed an unlikely double for Scotland who beat Les Bleus by the same scoreline at Hampden Park last October. France and Italy played out a drab nil-nil draw in Milan four days prior to Scotland's win and that combined with Italy's narrow 2-1 away win in the Ukraine leaves France third in the group one point behind Italy and two behind table-toppers Scotland.

It's all still to play for in a three-horse race to qualify and if Scotland can pick up results in their next two games at home to Ukraine and away in Georgia they may only need a draw in the final game at home to Italy to dump out one of the big boys and qualify.

Going Blank Again

Propping up Group D, my personal favourites San Marino were unable to grab their second qualifying goal. Although they didn't manage an upset over the Czech Republic, they were only a goal down when Della Valle got his marching orders in the 64th minute and two late goals gave the scoreline a more respectable look for the Czechs. Unfortunately Cyprus also proved too strong and a 3-0 defeat in Nicosia leaves the minnows with a goal difference of minus 42, some 8 goals worse off than the next worst team Andorra who are languishing at the bottom of England's group. Slovakia and Wales are next and the search for that elusive goal continues.

Barclays Premier League
Saturday, 15 September 2007

Birmingham 1-0 Bolton
Chelsea 0-0 Blackburn
Everton 0-1 Man Utd
Portsmouth 0-0 Liverpool
Sunderland 2-1 Reading
Tottenham 1-3 Arsenal
West Ham 3-0 Middlesbrough
Wigan 1-1 Fulham

CARD ZONE
Australia's Leading Trading Card Shop

Trading and collecting has become an international addiction.

Card Zone stocks the cards you seek...

- 2006 Select A-League Cards
- A League Signature Cards
- Official A League Album
- 2006 Quantas Socceroos Cards
- 2006 Germany World Cup Cards
- Also stockists of: AFL, NFL & Cricket
- Non-Sport Collector Cards

www.cardzone.com.au

MAIL ORDER: **CARD ZONE 262-266 Victoria Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051** (Opposite Victoria Market)
Open: **Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm / Sun 10am-12pm** Tel: **(03)9326 9588** Email: **stevewang@cardzone.com.au**

SYDNEY FC

1 - 2

PHOENIX

PHOENIX CREATES HISTORY

Sydney still searching for first win

By Mike Salter in Sydney
Photo courtesy FFA

Sydney FC is still without a win in the 2007/08 A-League season, after a disappointing loss to the new outfit from across the Tasman.

Ruben Zadkovich and Mark Milligan were back from Olyroo, duty and both rejoined the Sydney starting eleven, as did "fringe Socceroo" Alex Brosque. Juninho's reported recovery from his shoulder strain did not see him picked in Branko Culina's squad.

For the Phoenix, it was a by now familiar line-up, with Felipe once again preferred to Vaughan Coveny.

The game began with a goal out of nowhere. After an early attempt by Richard Johnson, a straightforward long ball from deep in Sydney FC's half was badly misjudged by Tony Lochhead; it broke to the advancing Adam Casey, who slid the ball past Glen Moss and into the far corner.

Sydney's ponderous defence would cost them their lead, however. In the eighth minute, Felipe received the ball in midfield, waltzed past two bemused Sydney defenders and slammed a left-footed shot past Clint Bolton.

Sydney FC were momentarily shaken into action, with Ufuk Talay and Alex Brosque both going close in the succeeding minutes. Yet by the twenty-minute mark, the game had slowed down considerably, and soon Wellington took the lead.

Daniel received the ball in the Sydney box, and appeared to be elbowed by Ruben Zadkovich. A penalty was given, and although Daniel was required to retake the kick, he sent it safely into the far corner of the net on both occasions.

Both teams lacked the enterprise to open up the opposition defence for the remainder of the half, which was featureless.

The second half opened in a similar vein, with Sydney FC in particular passing the ball around neatly but creating no openings. A disappointing Patrick was duly replaced by Brendan Santalab, while Adam Casey, who had faded after his early goal, gave way to Robbie Middleby. Sydney reverted to a back three, and rallied somewhat.

A surging run down the left by Middleby ended in a cross to Brosque, who hit the outside of the post after an uncharacteristic mistake by Karl Dodd. Then, after Daniel had gone wide at the other end, Santalab's impressive run in the inside-left channel ended with a crisp cut-back which just evaded the Sydney players in the box.

There were two more good chances for the side in blue; Talay, on the edge of the box, blazed a cross-shot wide of goal in the 80th minute, and shortly afterwards Brosque sent a gem of a ball to Middleby on the left, but the substitute's control let him down, and Moss was able to smother the shot.

That was that for Sydney FC, although there were claims for a penalty when a high boot connected with Middleby in the box a couple of minutes from the end.

Congratulations to the Wellington Phoenix for their first win in the A-League. For Sydney FC, the frustration continues.

Sydney FC: Bolton; Zadkovich, Rudan (Zdrilic), Popovic, Fyfe; Talay, Milligan; Casey (Middleby), Corica, Brosque; Patrick (Santalab).

Wellington Phoenix: Moss; Christie, O'Dor, Dodd, Lochhead (Old); Johnson, Aloisi; Ferrante, Felipe (Coveny), Daniel; Smeltz.

Felipe seals the Phoenix's first ever win in the A-league

SYDNEY FC PLAYER RATINGS

Bolton: 6/10. Apart from the two goals, neither of which he could do much about, a quiet game.
Zadkovich: 6/10. Full of enterprise and running, but the final ball just isn't there.
Rudan: 5/10. Not one of his best games, although he was dominant in the air as usual.
Popovic: 4/10. His age and lack of pace are being cruelly shown up this season.
Fyfe: 5/10. Not a bad game, but his passing remains disappointing.
Talay: 5/10. Not up to his usual standard, with plenty of misplaced passes and a couple of unnecessary fouls.
Milligan: 6/10. Somewhat hit-and-miss throughout.
Casey: 7/10. Did very well with the goal, but needed to bring himself more into the game.
Corica: 6/10. Disappeared from view in the second period.
Brosque: 8/10. Far and away Sydney's best player on the night, and probably the club's best player this season.
Patrick: 5/10. The big Brazilian has not made an auspicious start at Sydney FC. Wasteful in the final third.

Substitutes:

Santalab: 8/10. Added plenty of verve to the Sydney attack when he came on.
Middleby: 7/10. Created some good openings, although his crossing needs

JETS

1 - 0

ADELAIDE

JETS UPSET ADELAIDE WITH LATE WINNER

Newcastle in outright second place

Coutesy FFA

Mark Bridge has inspired Newcastle to its second win on the trot after nailing a late goal to lead the Jets to a 1-0 victory over Adelaide United in their Hyundai A-League clash at EnergyAustralia Stadium on Saturday night.

Adelaide dominated the contest for the majority of the match and was in complete control before a lapse in defensive pressure allowed Bridge to slam home the winner in the 81st minute.

The second-placed Jets now have eight points from four games, while Adelaide has just three to its name after starting its season with three consecutive draws.

Adelaide entered the match without in-form striker Nathan Burns and Bobby Petta through injury, while Newcastle started star Brazilian recruit Mario Jardel on the bench.

The visitors controlled proceedings in the opening half but couldn't find a way past Newcastle's resilient defence, despite Kristian Sarkies firing a number of dangerous crosses into the box.

Bruce Djite, Paul Agostino and Robert Cornthwaite all spurned chances on goal for the visitors in the opening 20 minutes, while Mark Bridge's long range attempt for the Jets in the 15th minute sailed straight into the arms of United keeper Robert Bajic.

Adelaide continued to attack, forcing Newcastle coach Gary van Egmond to replace attacking midfielder Denni for Tarek Elrich to add a bit of defensive stability. But the move did little to stifle Adelaide's run.

The best chance of the first half fell to Agostino a minute before the break. Sarkies found a running Agostino in the box with a deft left-footed chip, but Jets defender Jade North was right on the scene to pressure Adelaide's stand-in skipper into a wayward shot.

Adelaide midfielder Angelo Costanzo almost broke the deadlock in the 51st minute when his glancing header from a Sarkies free kick had Jets keeper Ante Covic well and truly beaten, only for the ball to drift just inches wide of the target.

The near miss seemed to wake the Jets from their slumber. Matt Thompson let loose from outside the box after combining with Jason Hoffman for a clever one-two pass, while Bridge fired another shot on target in the 58th minute, both forcing Bajic into a save.

With the game needing a spark, Brazilian striker Jardel was introduced into the fray in the 71st minute to the approval of the crowd.

But it was an Australian who had the fans cheering the loudest eight minutes later when Bridge putting the home side ahead.

Jobe Wheelhouse broke through the midfield and, after a series of passes, the ball came to Bridge down the left on the edge of the penalty box.

The 21-year-old striker dribbled around Adelaide defender Richie Alagich before calmly slotting the ball home with his right boot, beating Bajic at his near post.

The goal breathed life into the game and, despite Adelaide's best efforts to find an equaliser, the Jets escaped with all three points.

Newcastle 1 (Bridge 81')
Adelaide 0